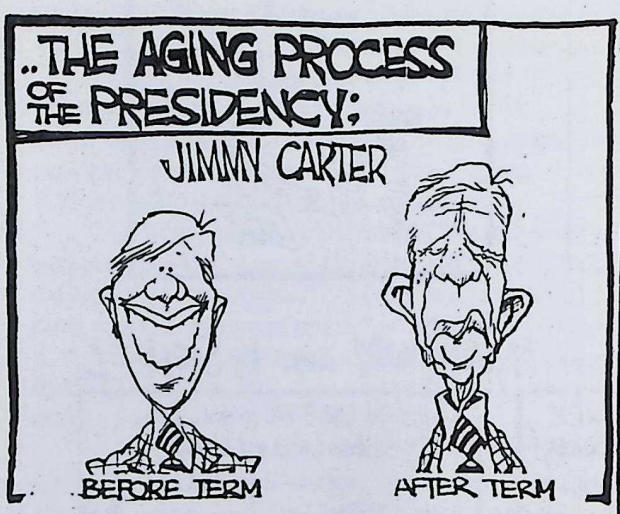
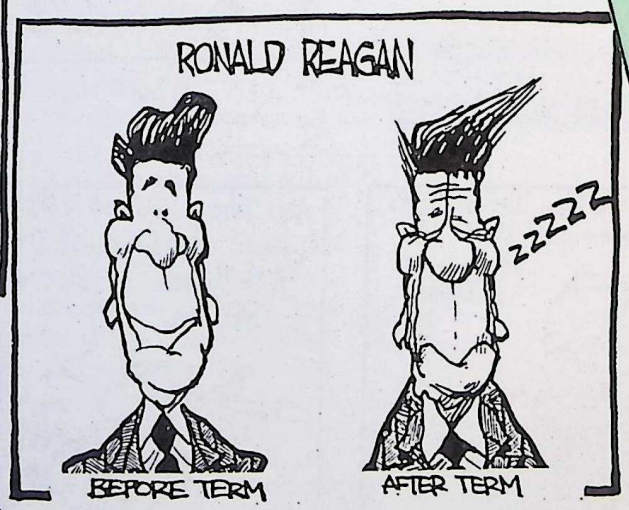
EPISODE #88
May 20, 1993

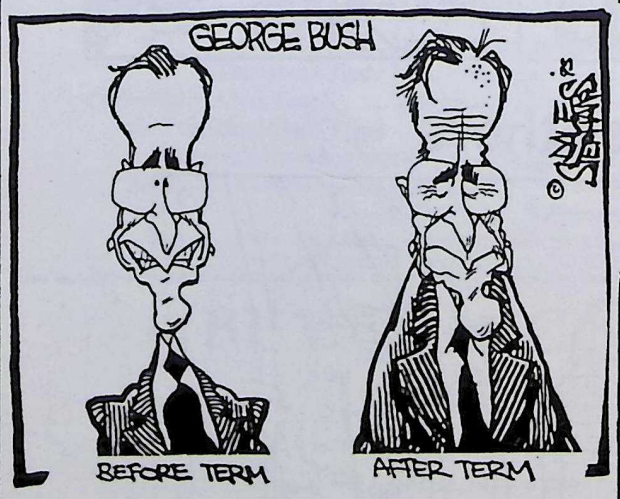
The Valley COMIC NEWS

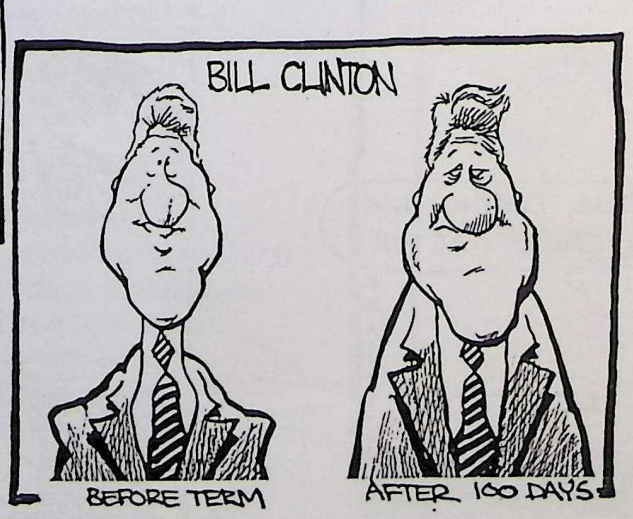
ENTERTAINMENT LISTINGS!!

STORIES:
BILL'S WORLD
HOMOPHOBES ON PARADE
BEYOND POLITIX
THIS & THAT







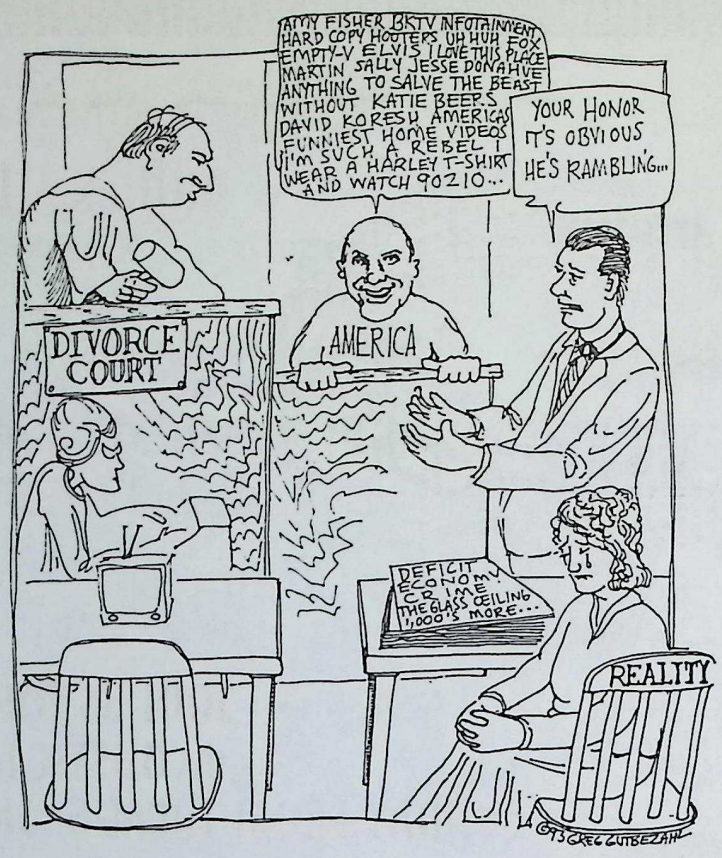


INSIDE

FEATURES: THE FAR SIDE,
DOONESBURY,
CALVIN & HOBBES,
VIEWS OF THE WORLD,
JOE BOB BRIGGS, LEOLD,
IZZY GESELL'S *HUMOR ME*,
THIS MODERN WORLD,
TAKE IT OR LEAVE IT,
LOCAL HEROES,
BRASS & FERN
WILMINGTON,
EARTHWEEK

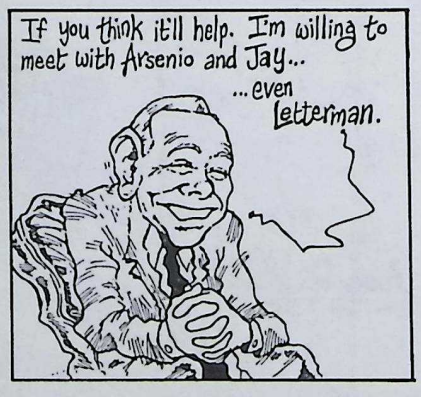
FREE · FREE · FREE · FREE

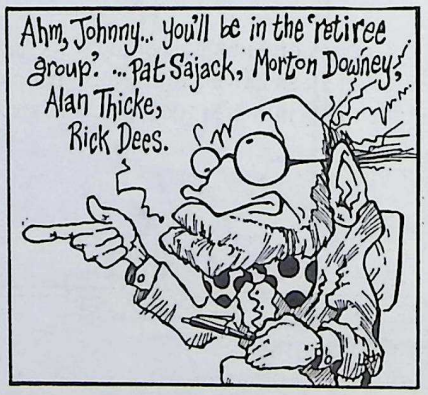
LOCAL HEROES



Star Shrinker ©P. ROYD.

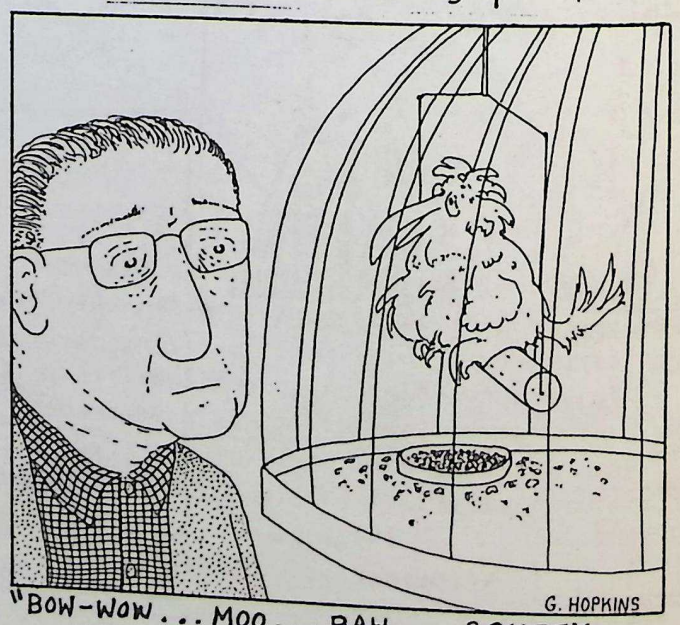
by Dr. Rowdy illus.: K. Seidel





THINK'R

dog feathers by Giles Hopkins



"BOW-WOW... MOO... BAH... SQUEEK... ...MEOW... I DO BIRD CALLS, TOO."

PAGE THREE

by Mike Chrisman

	the ~~good~~ word
good	the word
stet	the ~~good~~ word
cap	the word
lc	The Word
sc	See word.

So, I thought I'd explained in a recent column what was wrong with this country, which was that my automobile dealer wanted to charge me $89.60 for a taillight lens that couldn't possibly cost more than one dollar to manufacture. I was wrong. I mean, that taillight business is certainly a sign of the dark forces that gnaw at the vital parts of our republic, but it's not what's *really* wrong with this country. What's *really and truly* wrong with this country, no tags back, stick a needle in my eye, is: I need a job. Now, I know what you're saying. You're saying, "Whoa, Mike — you've got a *dandy* job; you're the editor of this fine magazine. Tens of thousands of us count on you to ante up mirth and gaiety and a fresh look at this wacky world of ours every two weeks." And you're right. God (& Goddess) knows, you're right. So let me add right now that this *is* a fine job. A *superior* job. I'm happy as a big ole 200-pound man-eating clam to be doing this job. What I really mean is I need a *second* job.

I've been trying to have a career change, like all those people you read about in those magazines where they have all the Armani ads. Usually it's a couple from New York, and they're fed up with the rat race and with making $300,000 a year, so they move to Maine and buy a quaint house, which she runs as a bed-and-breakfast while he sets up his own brokerage firm using his handy modem, computer, and fax. Normal people.

For *my* career change, I just want to make enough to support a family of two and still have enough left over to sometimes rent a video. I went out and bought all those self-help books, like *What Color Is Your Hang Glider*? Mostly what you learn from those books is how it would be terrific to have a career change where you realize your true life's work is writing books about how to have a career change.

When I mention all this, people always ask me, "So...whaddya wanna do?" These people are obviously uneducated lowlifes, but it doesn't pay to offend *anybody* when you're looking for a second job, so I always tell them, "Anything." Then they wiggle their eyebrows like Groucho Marx and repeat, "Anything?" and I say, "Except that." Which is a lie; I *will* do that, but not for money.

The actual, correct answer to "Whaddya wanna do?" is "Same thing I'm doin', except more of it." I mean, I love the stuff I do. L.U.V. That's all it takes, if you follow the New Age Philosophers: "Do what you love, and the money will follow." A friend of mine was living proof of this: he sat in front of the tube for a month, and before he knew it, the welfare checks started rolling in. For me, though — to paraphrase my comedian friend Chris O'Carroll — I'm a writer, an editor, and a musician; I have *three* ways to not make a living.

So then I usually ask people if they've got any proofreading or editing work that needs doing, like maybe they're writing the Great American Novel, which most people are, here in the Absurdly Literate Valley. And then I go into great detail (read: "spaz attacks") about how finely-edited this paper is, and how you can look through all the cartoons and all the ads and all the writing and never, *ever* find any errors. That's what I'm proudest of, and what I hope will land me some more work somewhere soon. You look through other newspapers — local, regional, national — there's lots of typos and stuff. Not here, though. It's my trademark. I simply don't make mistakes mistakes.

The Valley Comic News
P.O. Box 515, Northampton, MA 01061
Publisher/Editor • Mike Chrisman Founder • David Hooks
Co-Publisher • Izzy Gesell Advertising Director/Co-Publisher • Silvana Gravini
Co-Publisher • Hank Ryan Printing • The Recorder • Greenfield, Mass.
Copying • Paradise Copies Graphic Design • Mark Anderson
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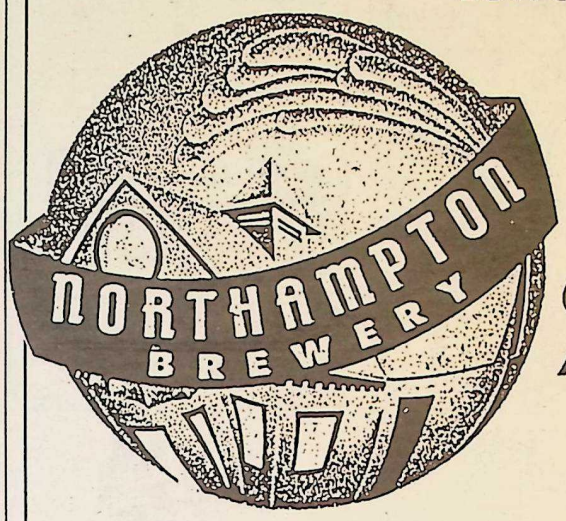

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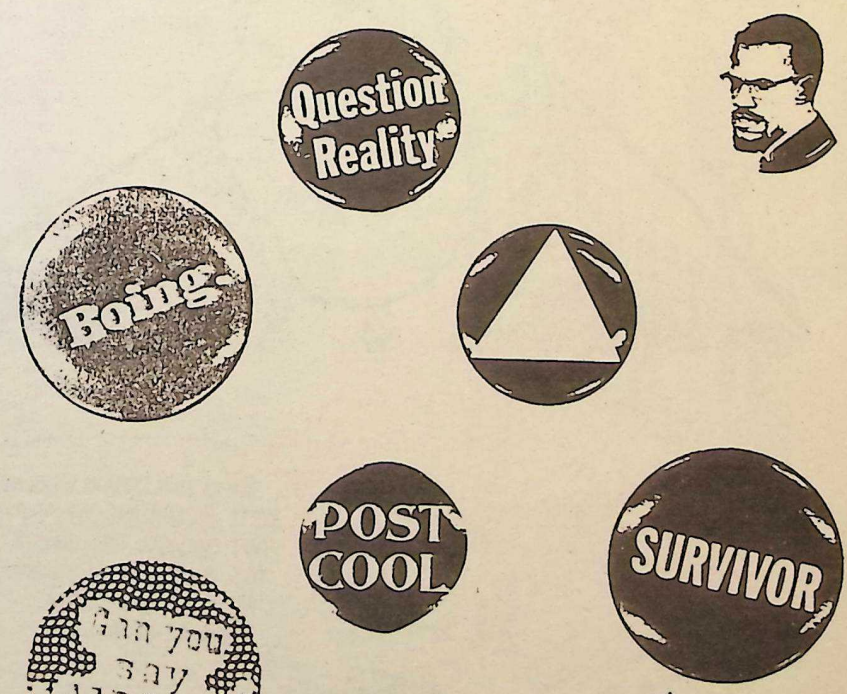

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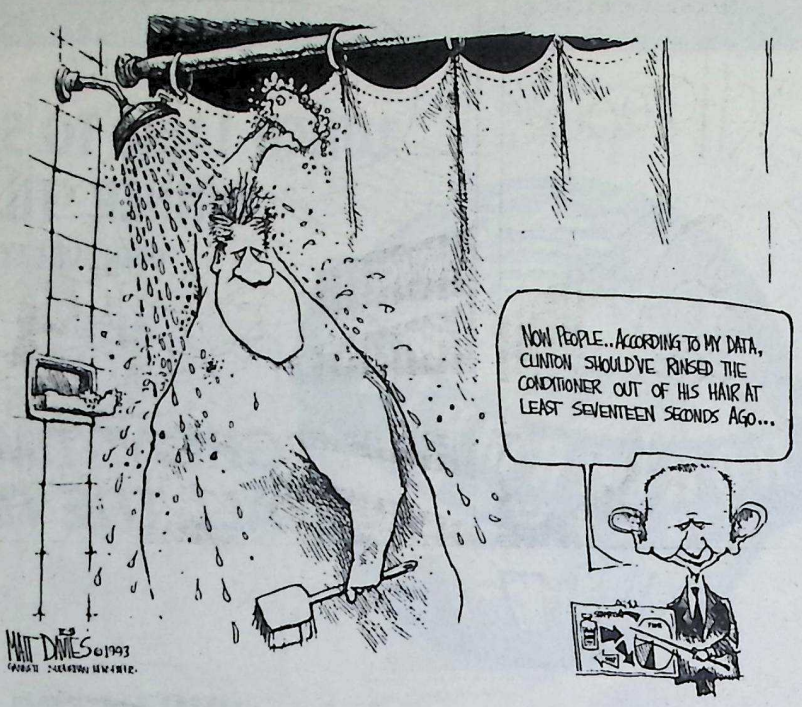
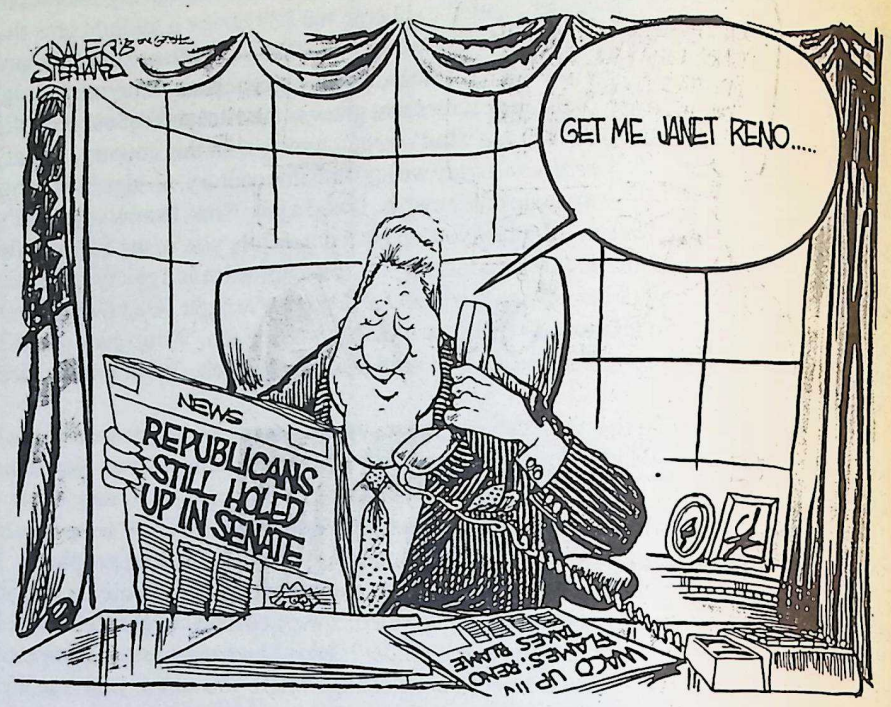
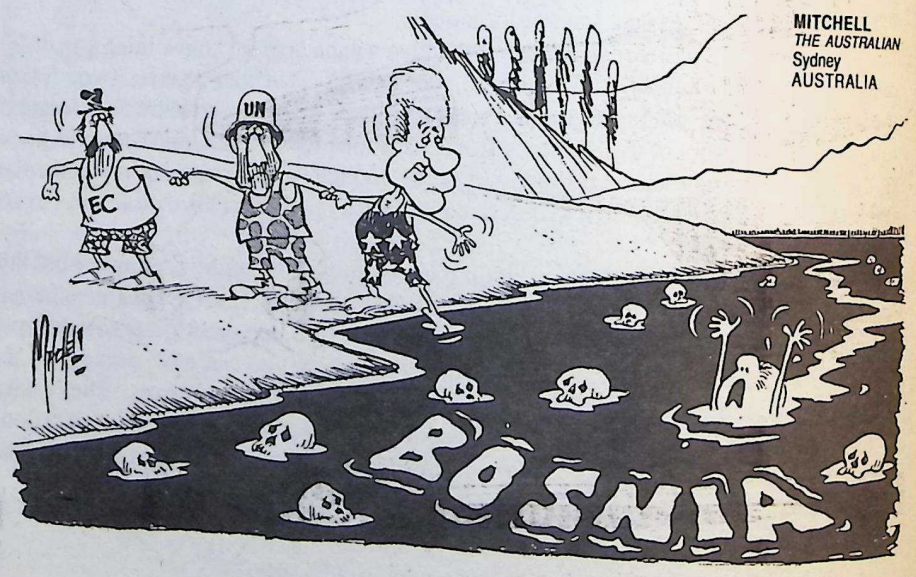
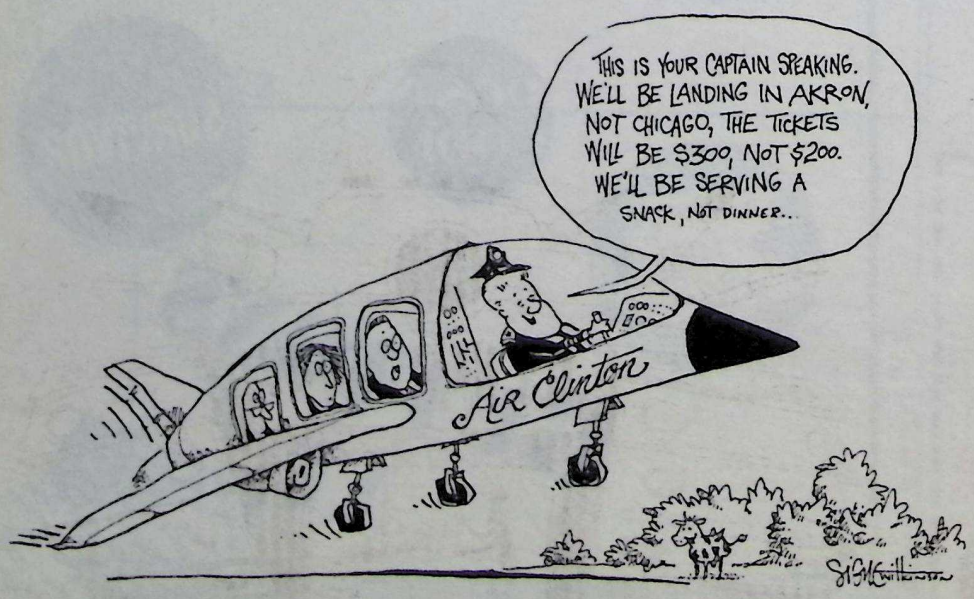
BILL'S WORLD

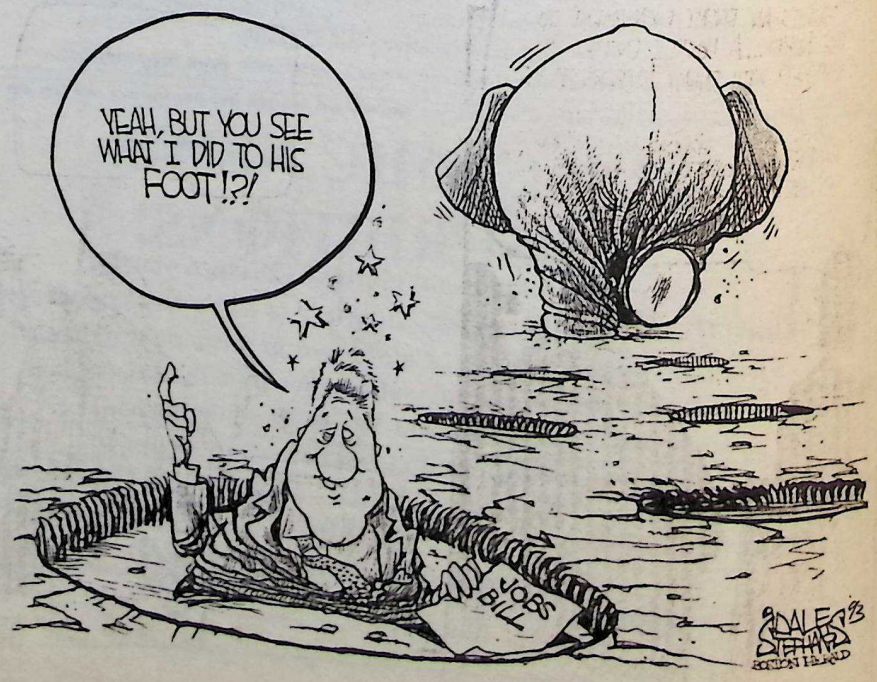

NOW PEOPLE...ACCORDING TO MY DATA, CLINTON SHOULD'VE RINSED THE CONDITIONER OUT OF HIS HAIR AT LEAST SEVENTEEN SECONDS AGO...
MATT DAVIES ©1993


GET ME JANET RENO.....
NEWS
REPUBLICANS STILL HOLED UP IN SENATE
WACO UP IN FLAMES: RENO TAKES BLAME

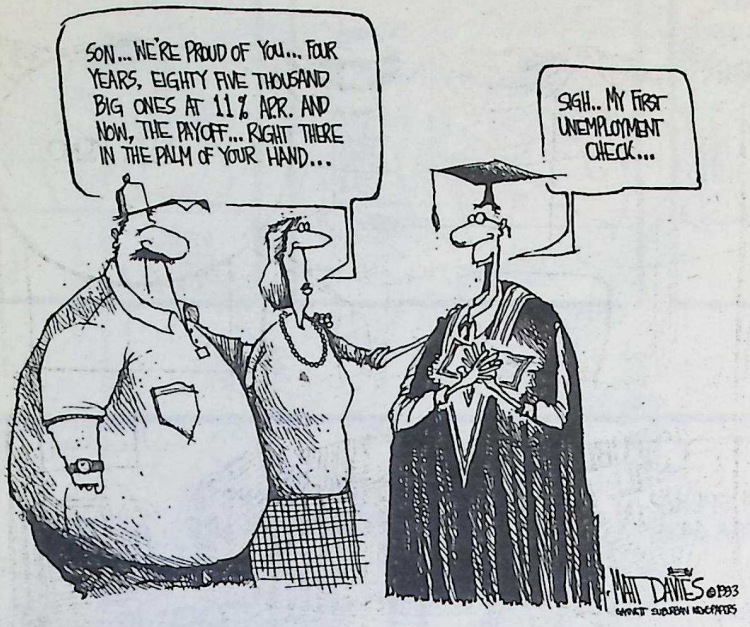
SCRATCHED BY CHELSEA WHILE PLAYING
RIGHT HOOK FROM BOB DOLE


MITCHELL
THE AUSTRALIAN
Sydney
AUSTRALIA
EC
UN
BOSNIA

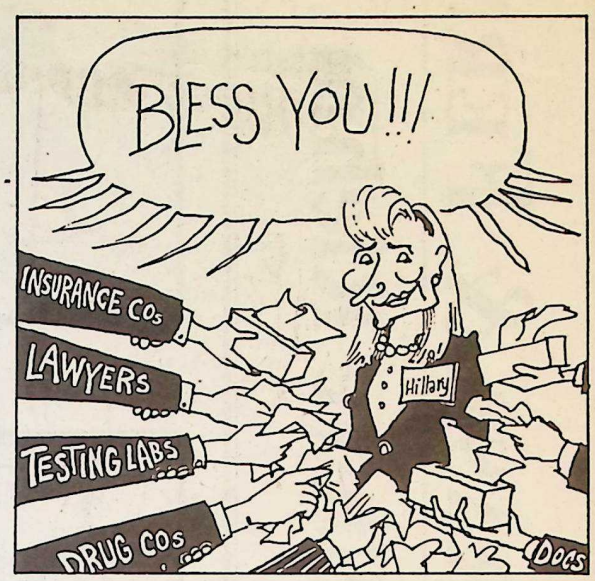

THIS IS YOUR CAPTAIN SPEAKING. WE'LL BE LANDING IN AKRON, NOT CHICAGO, THE TICKETS WILL BE $300, NOT $200. WE'LL BE SERVING A SNACK, NOT DINNER..
Air Clinton

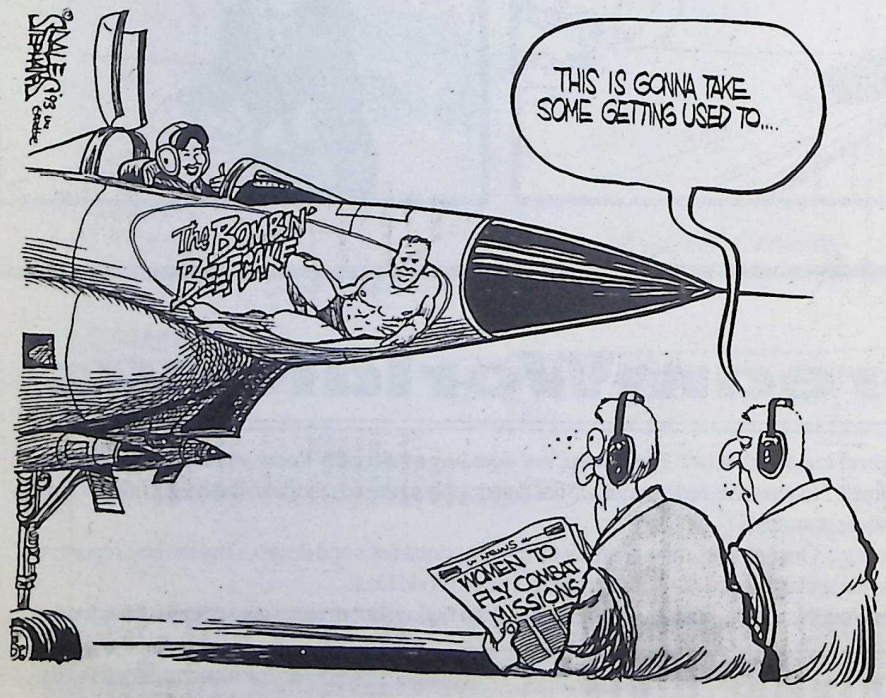

YEAH, BUT YOU SEE WHAT I DID TO HIS FOOT!?!
JOBS BILL

THIS & THAT


SON... WE'RE PROUD OF YOU... FOUR YEARS, EIGHTY FIVE THOUSAND BIG ONES AT 11% APR. AND NOW, THE PAYOFF... RIGHT THERE IN THE PALM OF YOUR HAND...
SIGH.. MY FIRST UNEMPLOYMENT CHECK...
MATT DAVIES ©1993

Cartoonists & Writers Syndicate
AACHOOOO!!!
Hillary


BLESS YOU!!!
INSURANCE COs
LAWYERS
TESTING LABS
DRUG COs
Hillary
DOCS


THIS IS GONNA TAKE SOME GETTING USED TO...
The BOMBIN' BEEFCAKE
WOMEN TO FLY COMBAT MISSIONS

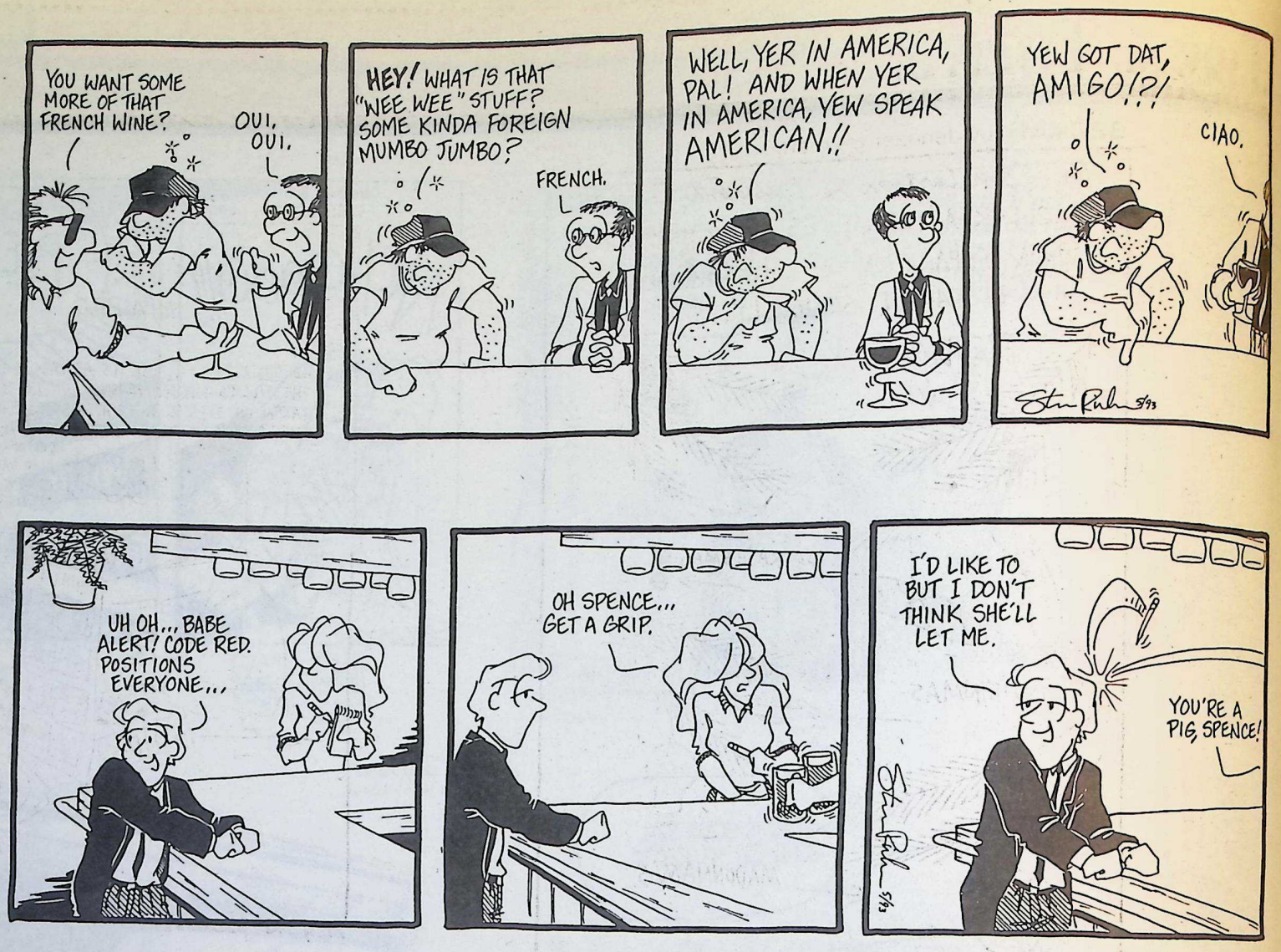
MATT DAVIES ©1993
IT'S BEEN A BANNER YEAR, CRINGEWORTH... THE PUBLIC'S HUNGRY FOR OUR INFLATABLE POLYTHENE "EARTH DAY" GLOBES AND WE CAN'T MANUFACTURE OUR STYROFOAM "SAVE THE PLANET" LICENSE PLATE FRAMES FAST ENOUGH...
ENVIRO★GREEN MANUFACTURING CO.
APRIL 22 EARTH DAY

THERE'S AN ENEMY ENCAMPMENT TO THE NORTH... A HOSTILE ENCLAVE LITTERED WITH ENEMY SNIPERS TO THE SOUTH AND THE SUPPLY ROADS ARE CONTROLLED BY INDEPENDENT ARMED BANDITS WHO'LL STOP AT NOTHING TO GET THEIR HANDS ON SOME FOREIGN AID...

...ENJOY YOUR STAY IN MIAMI.
RENT-A-CAR
TOURISTS
MATT DAVIES

U.S. WAR ON DRUGS

THE BRASS & FERN
By Steve Riehm



Macintosh Computer Experts

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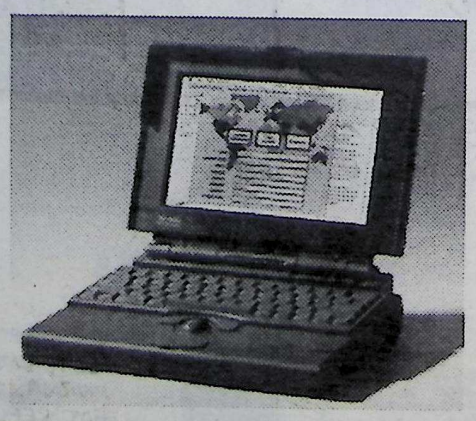

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DreamWorldNews

We spend one third of our lives asleep, but does any of us really know what happens during that time? No reputable news syndicate has dared apply to dreams the cold, harsh light of objective journalistic stanadards — until now.

It isn't easy. Our reporters must confront their most primal fears and desires. But the best reporters thrill to the staccato sound of — Assignment: DreamWorld Desk.

DreamWorldNews: **Because truth is stranger than fiction, but dreams are stranger than truth.**

Consumer Hints

•An ordinary football, properly carved, can be a thrifty substitute for a trumpet — it can even be simpler for beginning musicians to play! Parents can use the carved football as a starter trumpet and graduate youngsters to the more expensive brass version if they show promise. A football trumpet requires less lung power to operate, which can be a real boost for younger players, or for older trumpeters like Chet Baker, whose embouchures have collapsed from being beaten up during drug deals.

•Remember — gasoline is scarce in Israel, and most cars are shared by three or four families. Your hosts will appreciate it if you record the date, time, mileage and number of gallons every time you fill the tank. This should be done on the trunk of the car, using an indelible Sharpie laundry marker.

New Police ID Technique: Ultraviolet Genitals

There's a storm of controversy over new police techniques for suspect identification.

Recently, a San Francisco woman was told to pick her husband out of a lineup of strange men. But there was a catch: the identification took place under an ultraviolet light, and the men were invisible except for their genitals, which had been painted with fluorescent paint.

If the woman correctly identified her husband, the two would remain married. But if she mistakenly picked another man, a permanent swap of partners would be mandatory.

Her job was made more difficult by the crushed beer cans and broken bottles that litter police headquarters. Said the on-duty sergeant: "No one has been able to tame the wild dogs roaming HQ. They eat the broken glass so their eyes will glitter in the dark."

For more info on *Dream World News*, contact *The Valley Comic News* at 586-2274, or Box 515, Northampton, Mass. 01061

BEYOND POLITIX

BERMAN by Jennifer Berman

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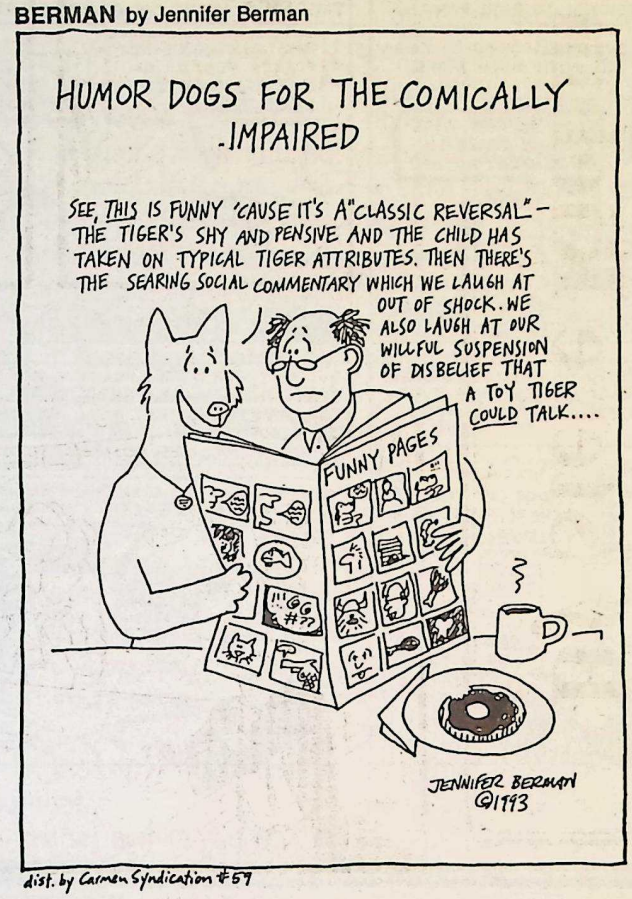
BERMAN by Jennifer Berman



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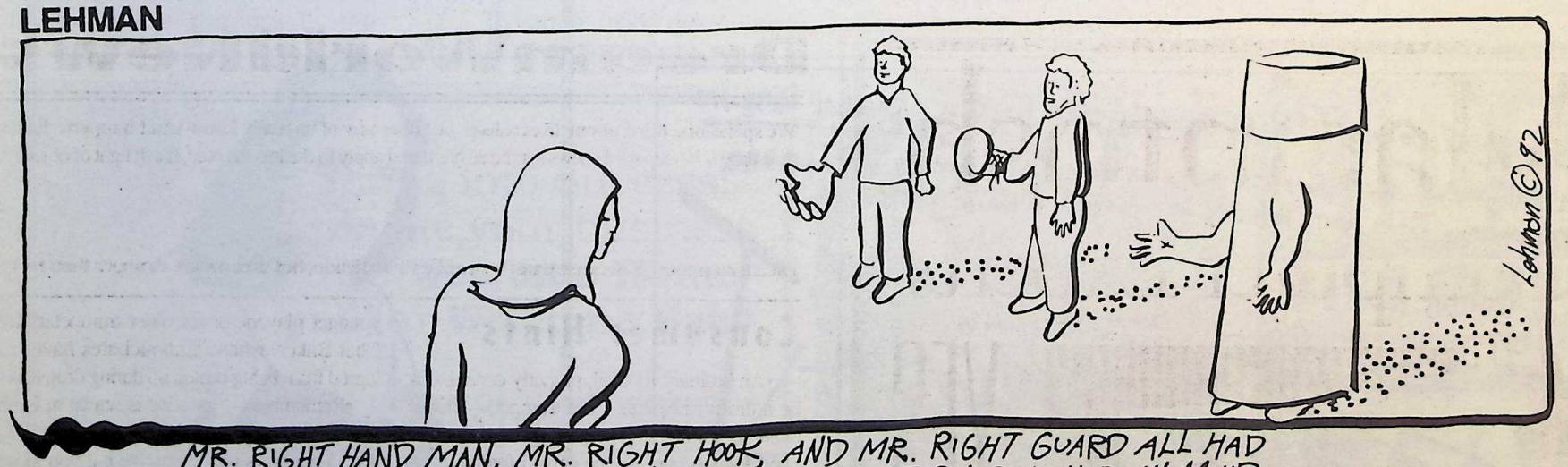
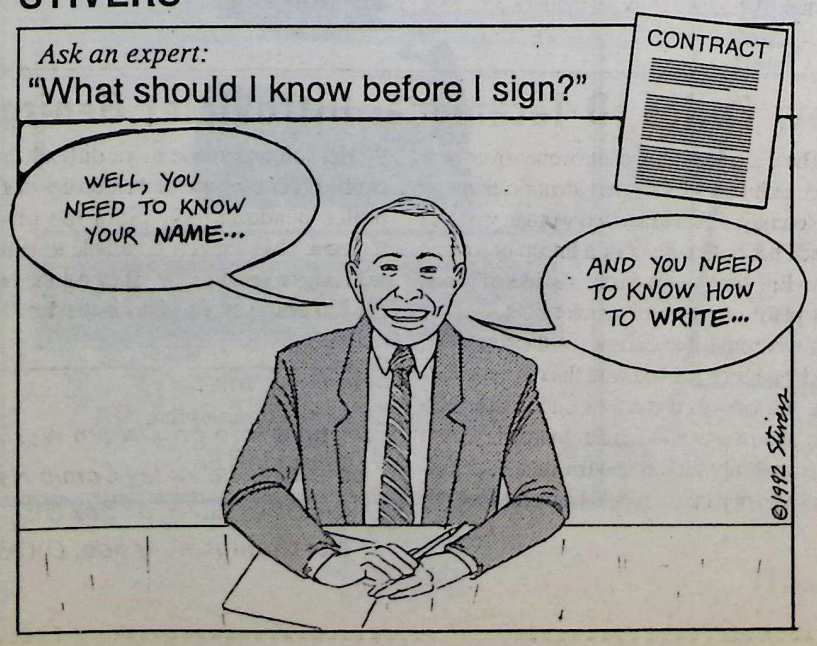
LEHMAN

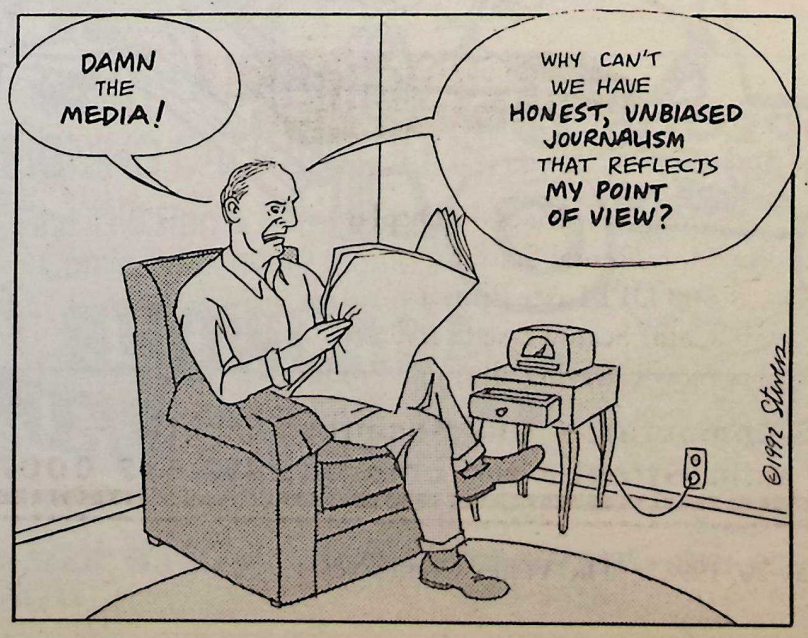


MR. RIGHT HAND MAN, MR. RIGHT HOOK, AND MR. RIGHT GUARD ALL HAD THEIR STRENGTHS BUT WERE NOT QUITE WHAT SHARON HAD IN MIND.

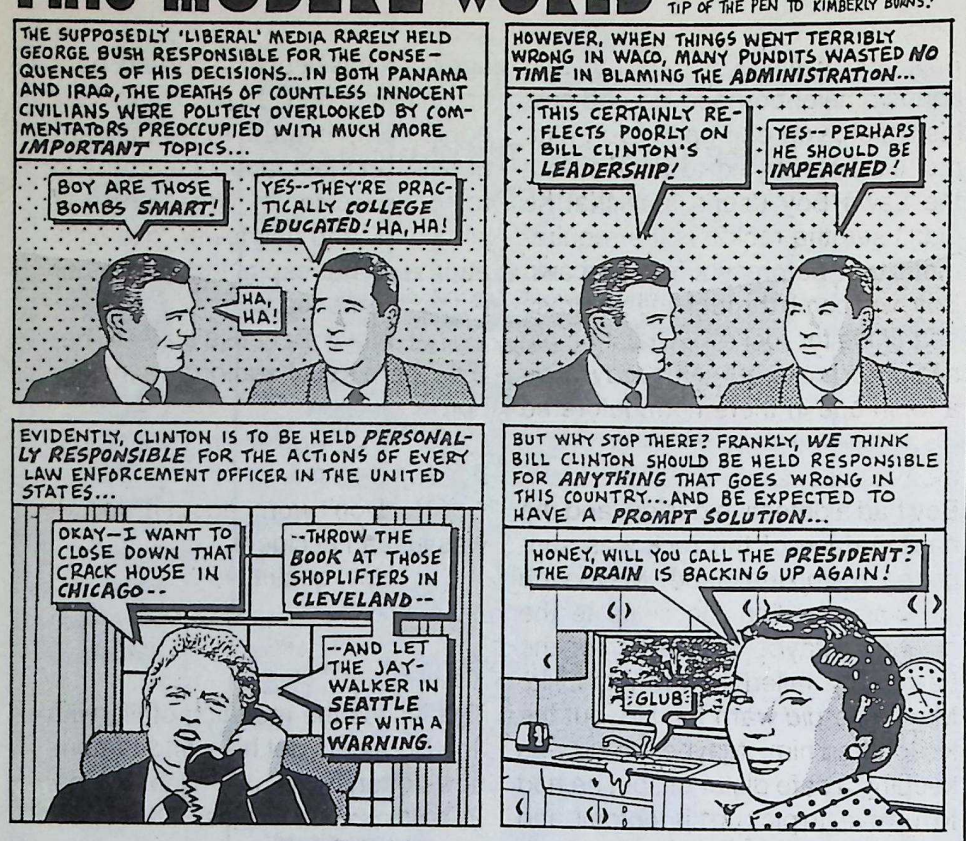
STIVERS

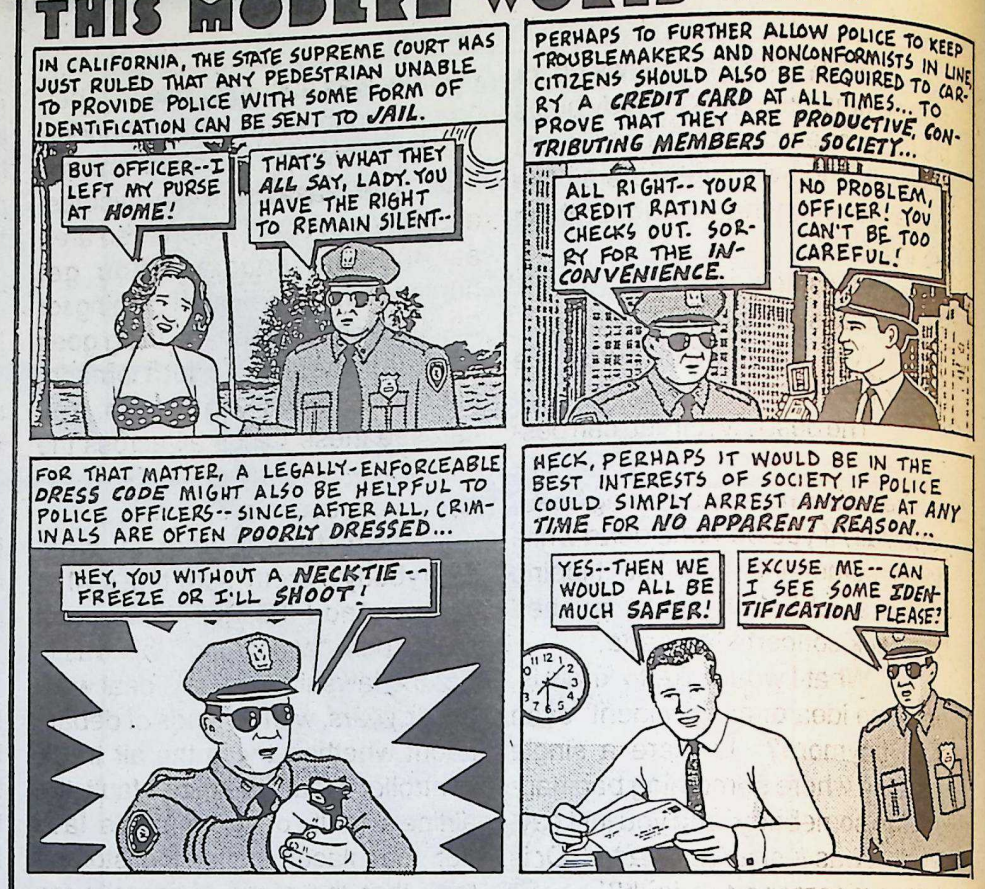


STIVERS



THIS MODERN WORLD BY TOM TOMORROW





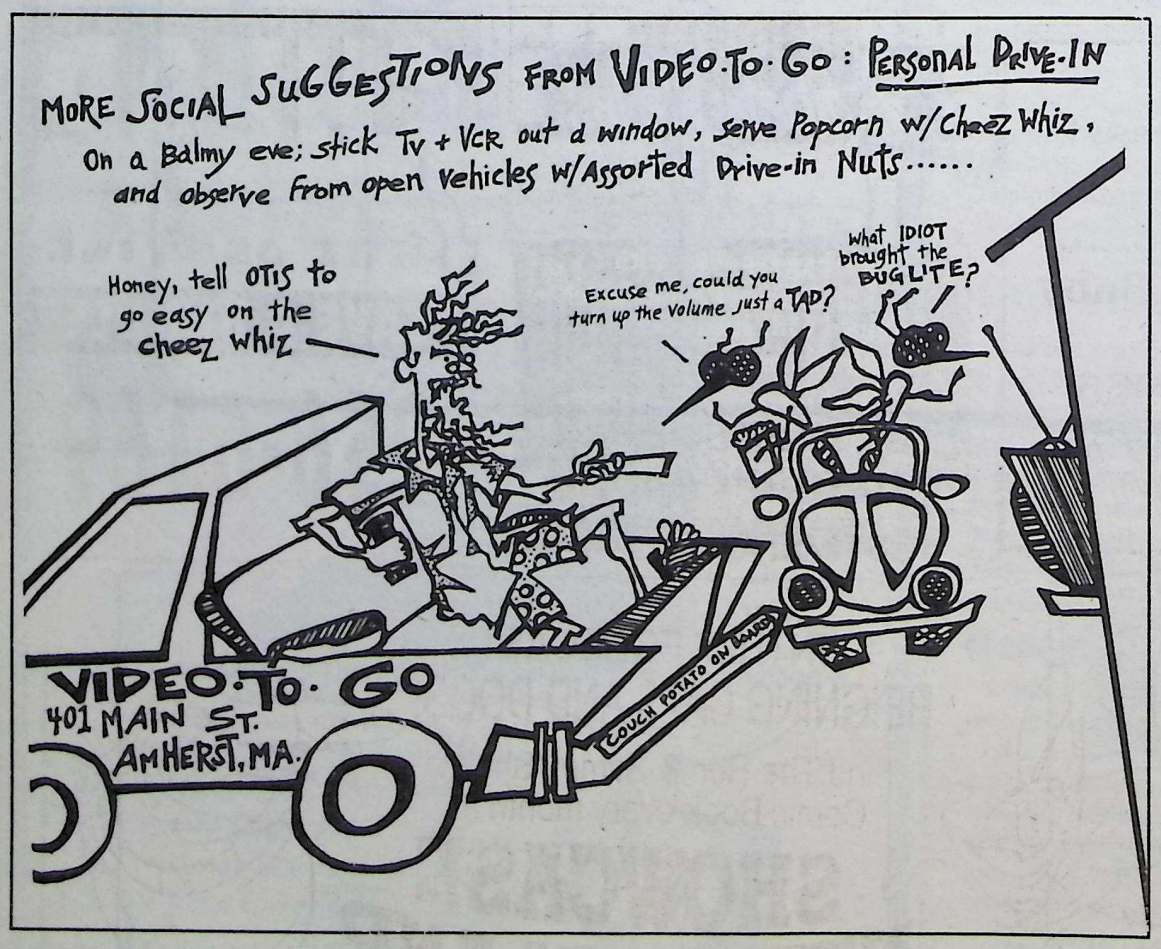


Photo: Jennifer Burdick

25 CENTRAL

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JOE BOB BRIGGS

Every time a car blows up, or a plane crashes, or somebody busts his head open by slipping on a wet sidewalk and flying up in the air like Wylie Coyote, what's the first thing we think of?

Lawsuit, right?

Lawsuit Lawsuit Lawsuit.

And the more it hurts, the bigger the lawsuit.

The best lawsuit you can possibly have is when you're dead. You can get *lots* of money for being dead, especially if you became dead while doing something *fun*, like flipping over in a Jet-Ski or getting crushed by a rock concert stampede.

What I would like to know is, does the idea of an "accident" even exist anymore? Is there a single situation where something bad happens to somebody, and you just say, "Well, it was *just an accident.*" Or is it *always* somebody's fault?

For example, several years ago a Delta Airlines plane crashed at Dallas-Fort Worth Airport, and the investigation showed that it was caused by a "freak" storm. Five minutes before the crash, the weather was absolutely clear. Then one of those weird prairie thunderstorms came up. I've seen 'em myself. They last about ten minutes, and they can cover as small an area as 400 feet square. You get humongous winds, rain, lightning for 30, 40 seconds, then the thing goes back up in the sky. It's not a tornado, but it kind of *acts* like a tornado. You can see these things all across the Great Plains, from northern Canada to Mexico, even on clear days.

So that's what it was. Everybody's pretty sure that's what it was. And I thought, if there was ever a pure "act of God," this was it. But the lawsuits over this deal went on for *years*, with all kinds of debate about whether it was the air traffic controller's fault, the pilot's fault, the airline's fault, or the airport's fault (for the placement of the storage tank that the plane eventually ran into).

What if it was just the weather? What if it didn't even show up on the radar? What if God occasionally just says, "Time's up"?

If you're using your Lawn Boy, and it flings a rock out and beans a neighborhood kid and cuts his cheek, you end up in court nine months later, trying to decide: Is it the Lawn Boy user's fault that he didn't see the rock? Is it a requirement that before you use a Lawn Boy, you comb through the tall grass *searching* for rocks? What if he *did* search for rocks, but somebody threw a fresh one in there right before he fired that mother up? Maybe he had the blade set too low. Maybe Lawn Boy had a defective design, and the hard surface of the rock was supposed to *stop* the blade. Maybe the kid was standing too close to the mower. Maybe the owner of the Lawn Boy failed to warn the kid. Maybe he *did* warn the kid, but the kid ignored him. Maybe the kid was keeping a safe distance, but he had to run over to pick up his football, and at that moment....

And after awhile you wanna scream at these people *"It was just a goldurn accident!"*

What I'd really like to say to 'em is, please don't move to West Texas, where everybody over the age of six has been cut, burned, beat up, hit with foul balls, injured by equipment, injured in schoolyard brawls, and lost family members in railroad accidents, wars, and car wrecks — and has fewer "plaintiffs' attorneys" per capita than any other place in America.

Why? Because they still believe there's such a thing as a "neighbor."

And you know what a neighbor says?

"Don't worry about it, Joe. It was just an accident."

How quaint.

• • •

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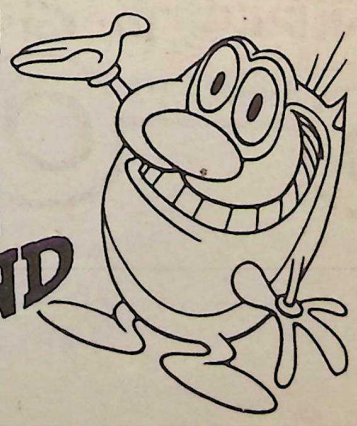

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TAKE IT OR LEAVE IT by L.M. Boyd

Q. Where'd we get the expression "booby prize"?
A. From the German "Bubenpreis" meaning "boy's prize" Such an award was once given to young men allowed to compete with their elders in Bavarian shooting contests.

•

The writer Peter DeVries noted, "The difficulty with marriage is that we fall in love with a personality, but must live with a character."

•

Dredgers every 14 years haul more crud out of the Suez Canal than the original diggers dug up to make it.

•

Early typewriters had capital letters only.

•

Researchers report that the older you get, the less inclined you are to wish you could live some part of your life over. They say people in their 30s and 40s often express a wistful desire to have another chance at this or that. But people over 60, they say, tend to reply, No thanks, just let the record stand.

•

Half the equator's length is in the Pacific.

•

Q. What's the oldest unchanged national border in Europe?
A. The boundary between Spain and Portugal.

•

Among dogs, too, the male is more difficult to housebreak.

•

What makes mushrooms pop up overnight is not swift growth; it's rain. Moisture can swell them to 100 times their dry size.

•

A Wyoming dentist once invented stainless steel teeth for cows. The theory was that older cows fitted with false teeth could eat more grass.

•

The beaver gulps air before it dives, then underwater gets about half a mile to the gulp.

•

Q. What are the United States' three closest national neighbors?
A. Canada and Mexico, of course — those are easy. The third lies just three miles off Alaska's Little Diomede island: Russia.

•

Some of Antarctica's interior valleys have never had any scientifically-detectable snowfall.

•

The noted sex researcher Havelock Ellis claimed: "Sex lies at the root of life, and we can never learn to reverence life until we know how to understand sex."

•

More boys than girls drink milk at school.

•

Health watchers say the life expectancy of the sumo wrestler doesn't measure up to the extraordinarily high span of the Japanese generally. Many wrestlers die in their mid-forties, usually of heart attack or stroke.

•

The Amazon has 10 tributaries as big as the Mississippi.

•

One of this column's friends says, "Marriage is the process of finding out what sort of husband your wife would have preferred."

•

Whales get tonsillitis.

•

Q. What's the most widely-manufactured product in the world?
A. The cola drink.

•

One out of every four American men have moustaches.

•

Sea otters that swim in the ocean don't drink the water. They get moisture from their food.

•

A Harvard School of Public Health study learned that a sizable group of heart patients scheduled for bypass operations sought second opinions, and 84 percent were told they didn't need such surgery.

•

In Portugal, you can't call it "Port" wine unless the grapes were grown in Porto.

•

Former Canadian Prime Minister Lester Pearson observed, "The grim fact is that we prepare for war like precocious giants, and for peace like retarded pygmies."

•

New Zealanders have reported that parrots kill sheep.

•

More people live in New York City than in all of: Alaska, Arkansas, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Wyoming, and the District of Columbia combined.

•

Lapland has no national boundaries.

•

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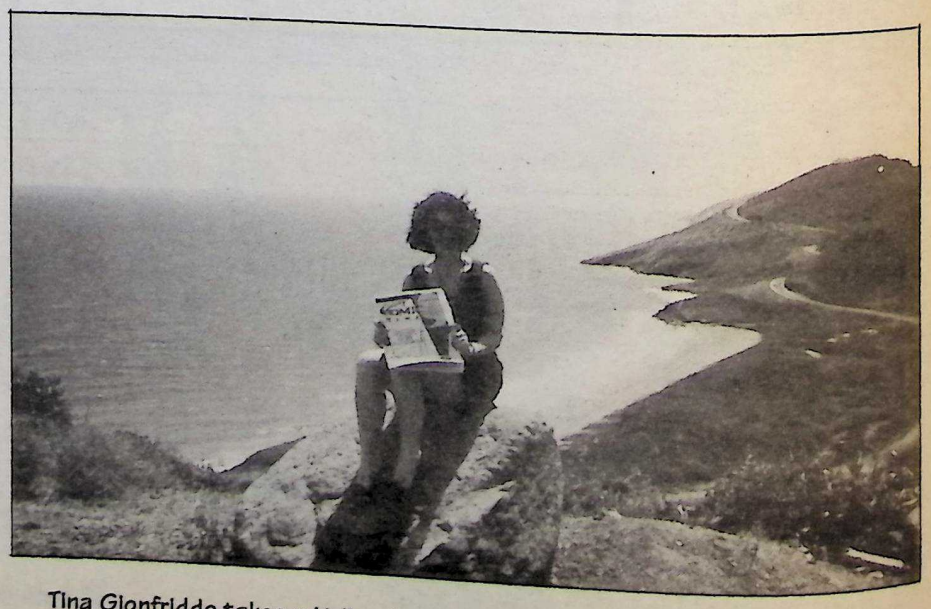

Tina Gionfriddo takes a Valley Comic News break in St. Kitts, West Indies

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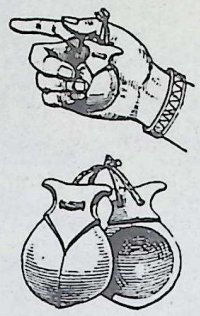


THU TWENTY

Iron Horse: Boozo Chavis **Vertex**: Selectrocution **Baystate Hotel**: Baystate Cabaret — Canine Bastards, Unband, and special guests **Dave's Other Place**: Rhythm Rockers **City Cafe**: DJ w/ dance music **Pearl Street**: Physical Graffiti (Led Zep tribute) **Alley Oops**: DJ Bobby C—all requests **Charlemont Inn**: open mic **Green River Cafe**: Mega dance party, w/ DJ Devlyn **Northampton Center for the Arts**: Queer Pier (meet-the-performer buffet after this show) **Shea Theater** The Thirteen Clocks (James Thurber fairy tale)

FRI TWENTYONE

Dave's Other Place: Jac Veronesi **City Cafe**: DJ w/ dance music **Huke Lau/Comedy Connection**: Polynesian Show **Hotel Northampton:** Mark Maulucci, Tom Savoy **Pearl Street**: Rock Bottom Remainders (Dave Barry, Steven King, Amy Tan, Matt Groening), Lobsterz From Mars **Iron Horse**: Flor de Cana, Kimsa **Baystate Hotel:** Baystate Cabaret — Hoolapopper, Erectus Monotone, Shiny Beat **Green River Cafe**: Justina & Joyce **Vertex**: Southside Johnny & the Asbury Dukes **Northampton Center for the Arts:** Queer Pier **Charlemont Inn**: Art Steele Blues Band **Shea Theater**: The Chronicle of Anna Magdalena Bach (film), The Arcadia Players (playing J.S. Bach)

SAT TWENTYTWO

Vertex: Selectrocution **Baystate Hotel:** John Sheldon & Blue Streak, Art Steele Blues Band **Green River Cafe**: Peter Keane **Hotel Northampton:** Hal Benoit, Dave Brunelle **Iron Horse**: Vance Gilbert **Pearl Street:** Art Steele Band **Huke Lau/ Comedy Connection**: Carol Leifer **Charlemont Inn**: Hal Benoit Band **City Cafe**: DJ w/ dance music **Dave's Other Place:** Dan Carberg Northampton Center for the Arts: Queer Pier **Shea Theater**: Shea Radio Days

SUN TWENTYTHREE

Iron Horse: American Music Club **Green River Cafe**: Fred Small **Vertex**: Scatterbrain Gallery Reception **Shea Theater**: Pioneer Valley Cappella

MON TWENTYFOUR

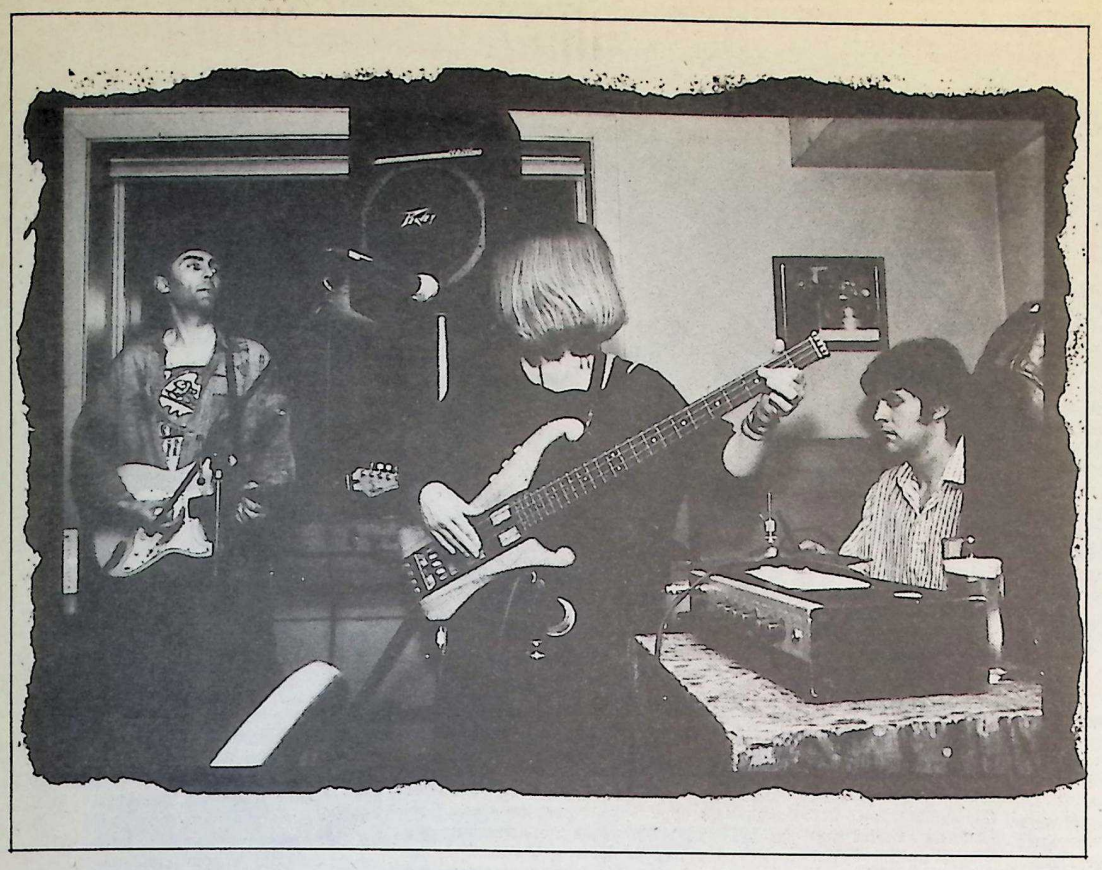
Baystate Hotel: Blue Monday, w/ Ed Vadas & The Fabulous Heavyweights **Iron Horse**: Poetry Slam

TUE TWENTYFIVE

Iron Horse: Screaming for Trains (theater) **Green River Cafe**: Open mic. w/ Rob Skelton

WED TWENTYSIX

Vertex: Reggae — New Horizon **Iron Horse**: Screaming for Trains (theater) **Baystate Hotel**: Free show — Puppet Museum



Joe Boyle, Leslie Smith, and percussionist Dave Noonan play The Brewery Tobey photo

etc

THU TWENTYSEVEN

Vertex: Selectrocution **Iron Horse**: Screaming for Trains (theater) **Alley Oops**: All Request w/ DJ Bobby C. **City Cafe**: DJ w/ dance music **Dave's Other Place**: Garry and the Mood Swingers **Charlemont Inn**: open mic **Baystate Hotel**: Duke Levine Group, Cowtippers **Shea Theater**: Turners Falls student music night **Iron Horse**: Screaming for Trains (theater) **Northampton Center for the Arts**: Jest for Laughs (Izzy Gesell, Julie Waggoner, Chris O'Carroll, Geri Stirlacci, Diane Jones, Leo T. Baldwin)

FRI TWENTYEIGHT

Baystate Hotel: Baystate Cabaret — U.F.B., w/ special guests **Dave's Other Place**: Susan Duncan **Green River Cafe**: The O-Tones **City Cafe**: DJ w/ dance music **Vertex**: Steadfast, Roadhorse **Iron Horse**: Screaming for Trains (theater) **Hotel Northampton**: Tom Savoy, Hal Benoit **Charlemont Inn**: Psychovsky

SAT TWENTYNINE

City Cafe: DJ w/ dance music **Iron Horse**: Screaming for Trains (theater) **Green River Cafe**: She's Busy **Baystate Hotel**: The Dots, Binky, Gideon Freudmann **Vertex**: Selectrocution **Dave's Other Place**: CMI (Coherent Melodic Improvisation) **Hotel Northampton**: Charlie Schmidt, Dave Brunelle **Pearl Street**: The Equalites

SUN THIRTY

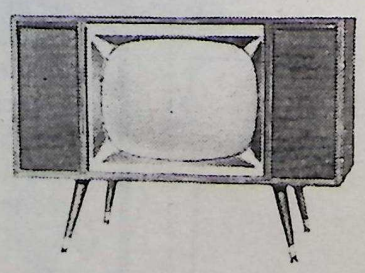
Alley Oops: New Country w/ DJ Mike P. **Iron Horse**: Screaming for Trains (theater) **Vertex**: Leeway, Doom Nation **Green River Cafe**: Peter and Mary Alice Amidon, Jon Weeks Saxophone Quartet

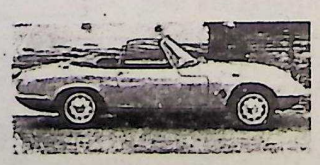
MON THIRTYONE

Baystate Hotel: Blue Monday, w/ Ed Vadas & the Fabulous Heavyweights **Iron Horse**: The House Jacks

TUE ONE

WED TWO





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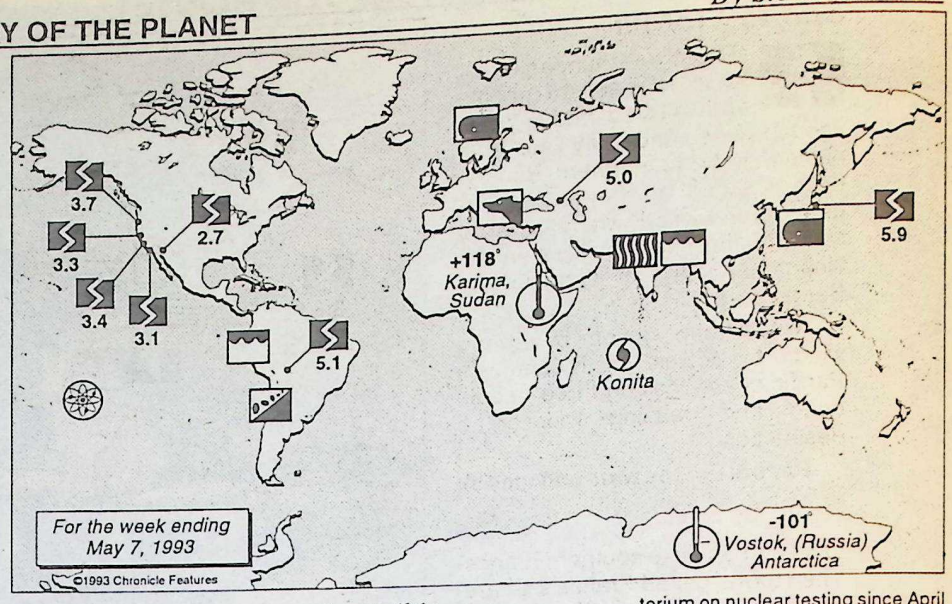
By Steve Newman

EARTHWEEK: A DIARY OF THE PLANET



Stormy Salvation

Arctic storms sweeping Scandinavia have so far kept Norwegian hunters from harpooning any whales despite an official resumption of whaling since mid-April. "We've seen whales, but we haven't been able to come close enough to shoot them," said Gunnar Pedersen, skipper of one of the four research ships patrolling the arctic waters. Meanwhile, the Norwegian government braced for renewed protests over its decision to resume commercial whaling in defiance of a 1986 International Whaling Commission ban.

In Japan, whale-eating banquets have been scheduled in Tokyo and Osaka to publicize mounting public pressure for the country to resume commercial whaling. The International Whaling Commission is meeting in Osaka to consider the international moratorium.

Floods

A flash flood triggered by non-stop rains swept away 40 villages in Assam and submerged a key highway linking the northeastern state with the rest of India. Some 50,000 people were marooned in Assam's Karimganj district after their homes were lost to the raging waters.

The Ecuadorian government declared the country's southern Andes region a disaster area after a natural dam burst, releasing a huge wall of water that washed away at least five villages. Large tracts of prime agricultural land were also inundated. The Paute River, blocked by a massive mud and rock slide in early April, had formed a 5-mile-long lake by the time that the earthen dam burst.

Tropical Storm

Tropical cyclone Konita formed over open waters of the Indian Ocean between Diego Garcia and Mauritius.

Earthquakes

A strong earthquake shook northern Japan from deep beneath southern Iwate Prefecture. There were no reports of damage or injuries from the quake. Earth movements were also felt in the Georgian Republic, central Bolivia, coastal Oregon, western Arizona, and at northern, central and southern points in California.

Heat and Dust

A savage heat wave scorching India's northern plains caused residents to suffer from electricity and water shortages. As the mercury soared past 104 degrees Fahrenheit, rolling brown-outs were begun in some cities. High temperatures the previous week left several power-generating stations damaged by overheating. The hot weather also roasted the Himalayan summer resorts of Kashmir and Himachal Pradesh.

Landslide

A large area near Santiago de Chile was hit by a massive landslide and severe floods which left 15 people dead and about 2,000 others homeless. Several bodies were found buried in the mud, or discovered floating in the flood waters which swept down the mountain slope.

Testing Plans

The managing director of the French Atomic Energy Commission urged a resumption in nuclear testing on Mururoa Atoll in Polynesia. "From a scientific and technical point of view, the resumption is necessary to maintain the means and the development of nuclear dissuasion," Philippe Rouvillois told a parliamentary committee. Greenpeace announced that it is making plans to send a protest vessel back to the atoll. France, Russia and the United States have been observing a moratorium on nuclear testing since April 1992, but the suspension is due to expire in two months.

Bosnian Bear

British soldiers attempted to stage a mercy mission to rescue a captive bear caught in the chaos of Bosnia's civil war. The U.N.-sponsored troops have so far been unable to persuade Croat militia guards to allow the animal to be transported to the port of Split, where it can be shipped to an animal refuge in Greece. The guards denied that the bear, caged in a filthy cell next to a bombed out cafe, is neglected. The bear's future remains in the hands of armed men hardened by war, and resentful of foreigners trying to impose alien standards on the treatment of animals.

Additional Sources: U.S. Climate Analysis Center, U.S. Earthquake Information Center, Meteo France forecast office at Reunion and the World Meteorological Organization.

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EARTHWEEK: A DIARY OF THE PLANET

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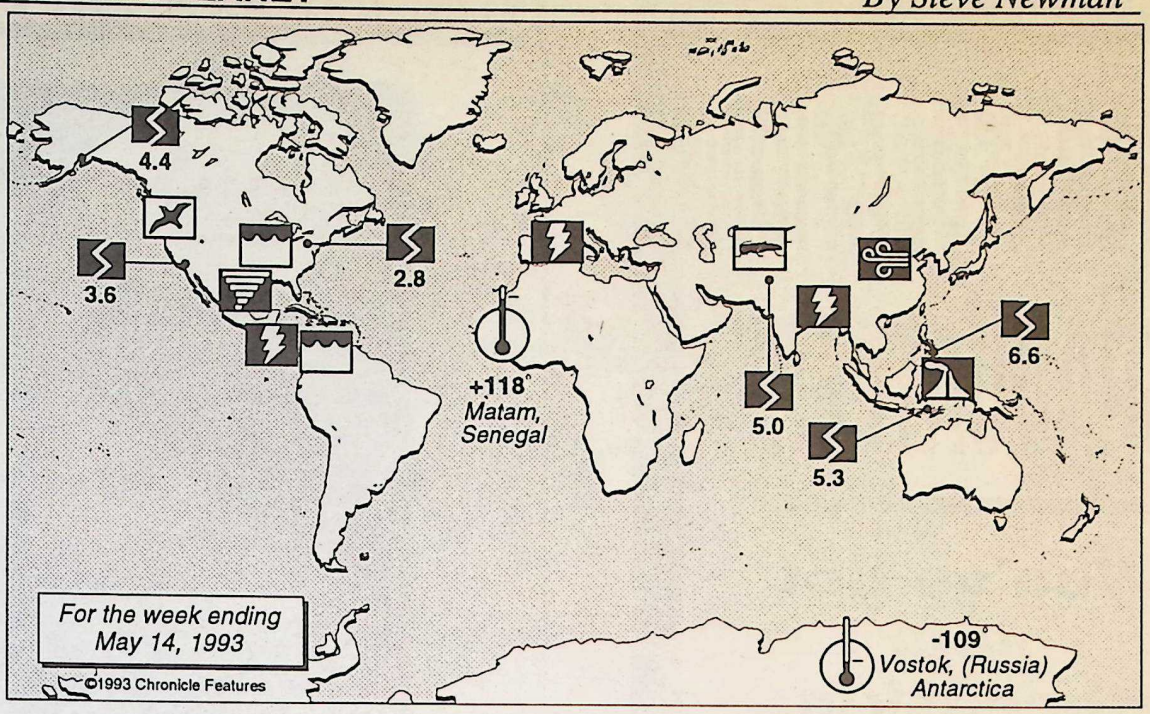

Spring Storms

Violent thunderstorms killed at least 16 people and inflicted heavy damage to villages and utility lines from eastern India to northern Bangladesh. A school teacher and 10 students were killed when lightning struck their school building in the Noagaon district of northwestern Bangladesh.

A hailstorm driven by strong winds hit towns on Nicaragua's Pacific coast, leaving three people dead and causing widespread destruction.

Parts of Europe were pounded by driving rain which caused flash flooding and wind damage from Portugal and Spain to southern France. The storms pelted France's Champagne region with hail and heavy rains which sent rivers of mud streaming through vineyards and into streets and homes.

Tornado Alley

A Texas twister skipped along a 6-mile path north of Dallas, killing one man and ripping the roofs from homes before tearing through a business district. The funnel first touched down in Sachse and didn't retreat into the clouds until it reached the commercial section of Wylie. It was just one of more than 75 tornadoes that developed from Minnesota to Louisiana as a powerful spring storm spun through the region.

Earthquakes

Sharp temblors rocked eastern Indonesia around the Banda Sea, sending residents fleeing their homes in panic but causing no significant damage.

Earth movements were also felt in the southern Philippines, California's southern desert area, southern Alaska, Pennsylvania, and along the Afghanistan-Tajikistan border.

Eruption

Gamalama, a volcano on the remote eastern Indonesian island of Ternate, belched a column of black smoke 8,000 feet into the sky. Strong winds aloft pushed the ash and smoke over the sea, sparing populated areas from raining debris. Gamalama erupted several times during the 1980s, forcing the evacuation of villagers from endangered areas.

Century Floods

Flooding of a magnitude expected only once in 100 years swamped fields and residential areas from Iowa to Texas. Farmers feared that they wouldn't be able to get their crops in the ground in time to take advantage of the full growing season.

Torrential rains over farming regions in Colombia's Antioquia province caused flash flooding which killed five people.

Black Wind

An awesome sandstorm, which swept through China's Gansu and Ningxia provinces and Inner Mongolia for several days, killed at least 43 people. Many of the victims drowned when the "black wind," as farmers called it, swept them into canals. The wind turned day into night as it whipped up sand and pebbles. Crops were buried by vast quantities of sand, and 300,000 head of cattle were smothered by the whirling cloud of earth. The leading edge of the sandstorm looked like a half-mile-high wave that came crashing down as it advanced across the Gobi Desert.

Locusts

Favorable weather in Central Asia has led to the massive breeding of locusts in Kazakhstan, according to Itar-Tass. Aerial spraying of the larvae was being conducted around the clock, and officials feared that if the young insects are not killed before late May, the locust would take wing and spread to neighboring Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan.

Chimney Sweeps

Hundreds of birds flew down a chimney and into a family's living room in Port Angeles, Wash., leaving a mess of soot and feathers covered with bird droppings. Chris Thomas, her husband, and their son were spending a quiet weekend at home when a roar suddenly came from the chimney. "It was exactly like 'The Birds,' except they didn't attack people," Thomas said, referring to the Alfred Hitchcock film. A fire rescue team arrived and collected the birds using their hands, feet, brooms, and other tools, then released them outdoors. But the birds circled the house and flew back down the chimney again. A board was then placed over the chimney to keep the unwelcome guests from returning.

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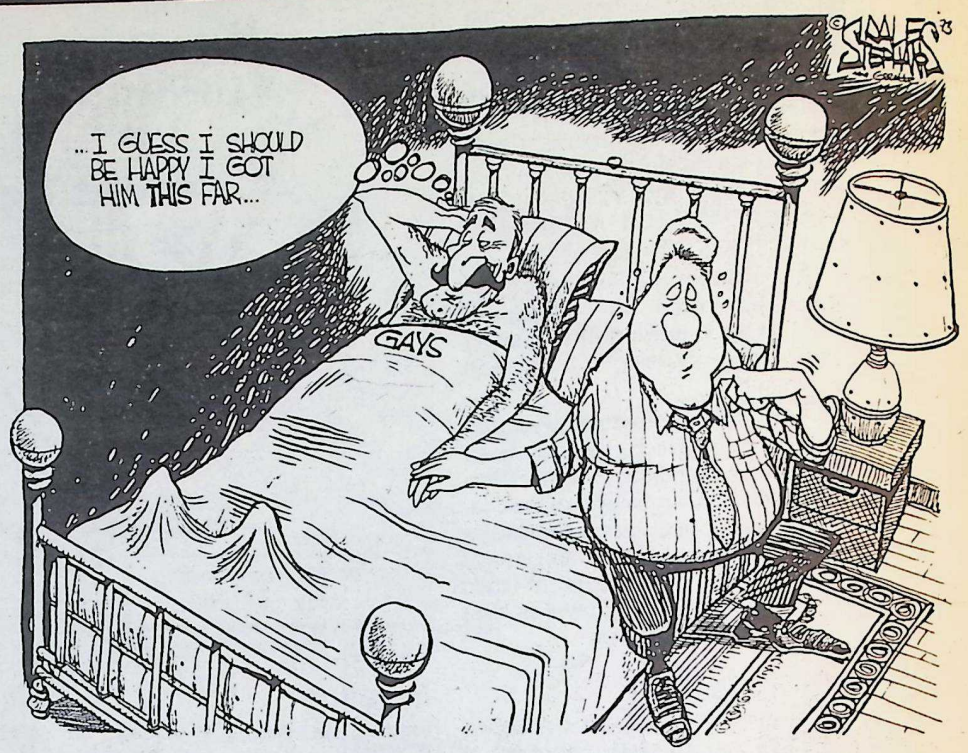

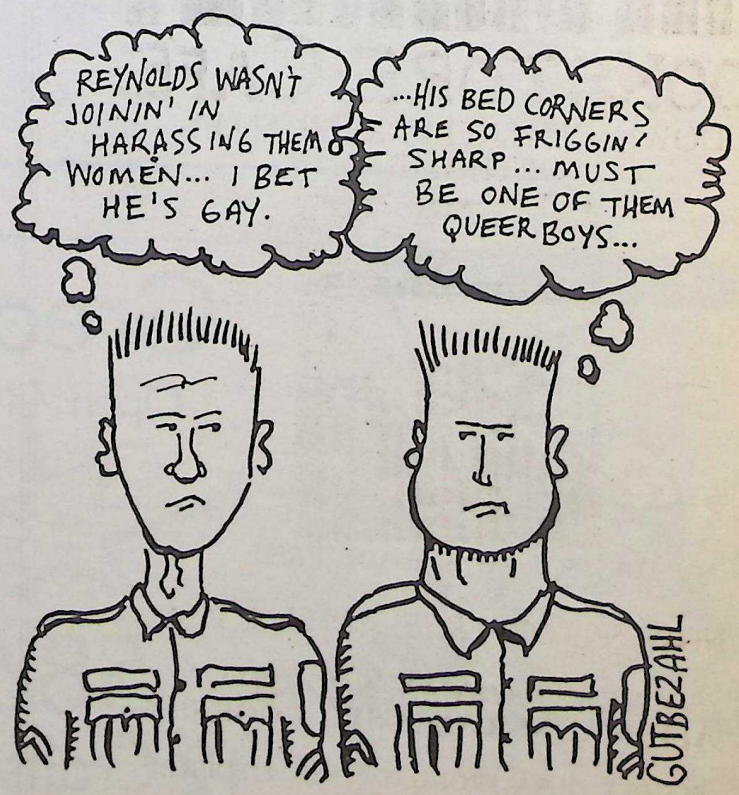

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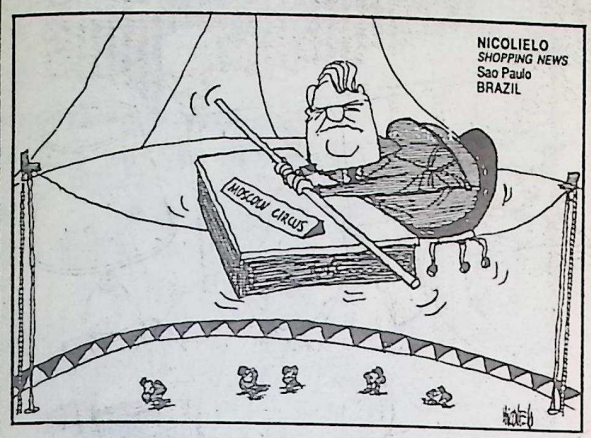

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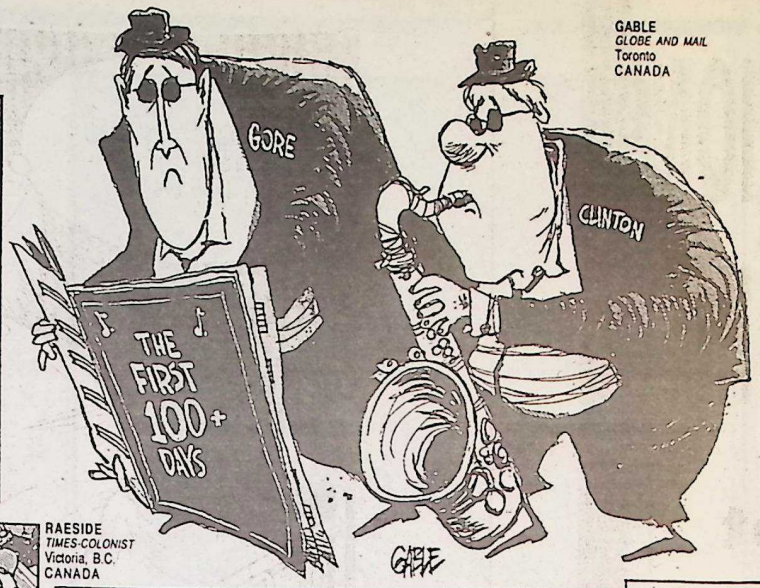
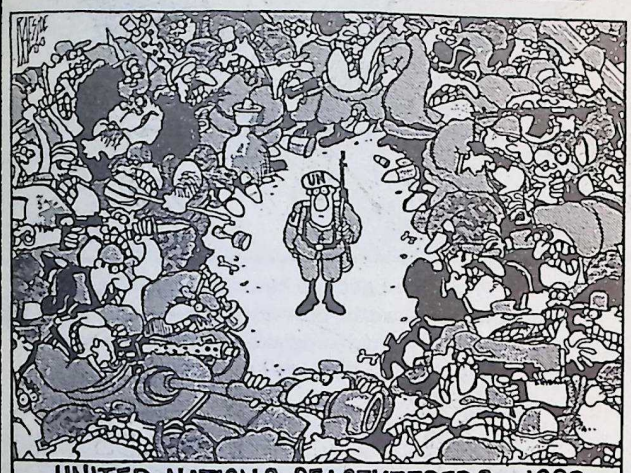
Sao Paulo
BRAZIL

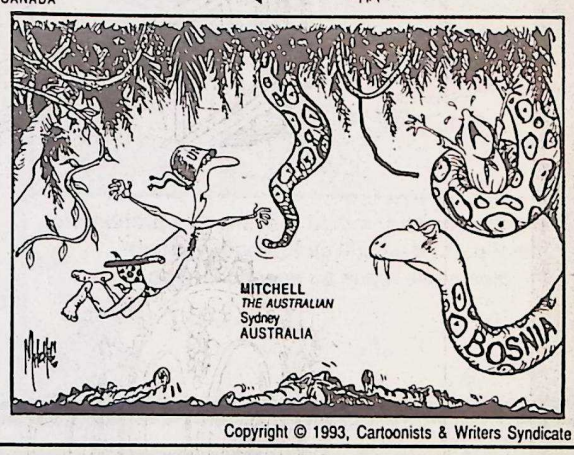


GABLE
GLOBE AND MAIL
Toronto
CANADA

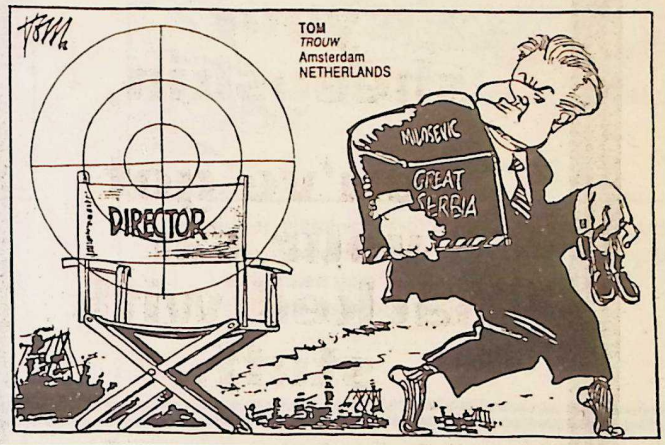
HAGEN
VERDENS GANG
Oslo
NORWAY



RAESIDE
TIMES-COLONIST
Victoria, B.C.
CANADA



MITCHELL
THE AUSTRALIAN
Sydney
AUSTRALIA



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TROUW
Amsterdam
NETHERLANDS

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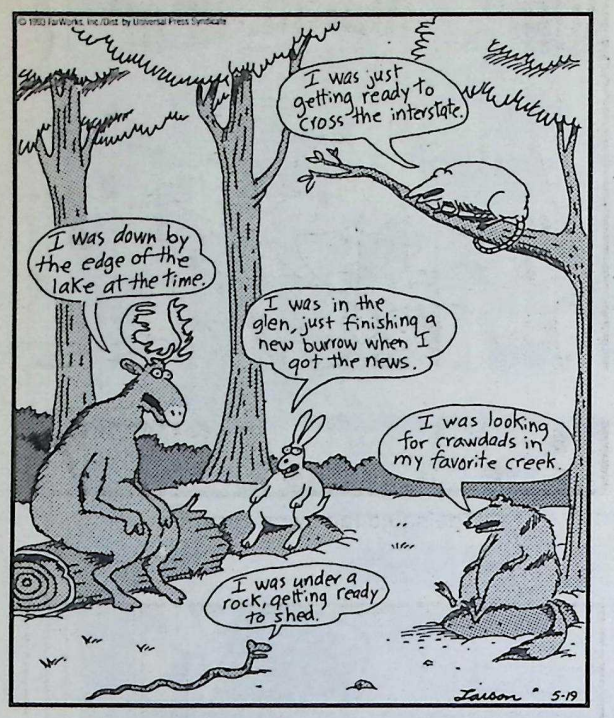
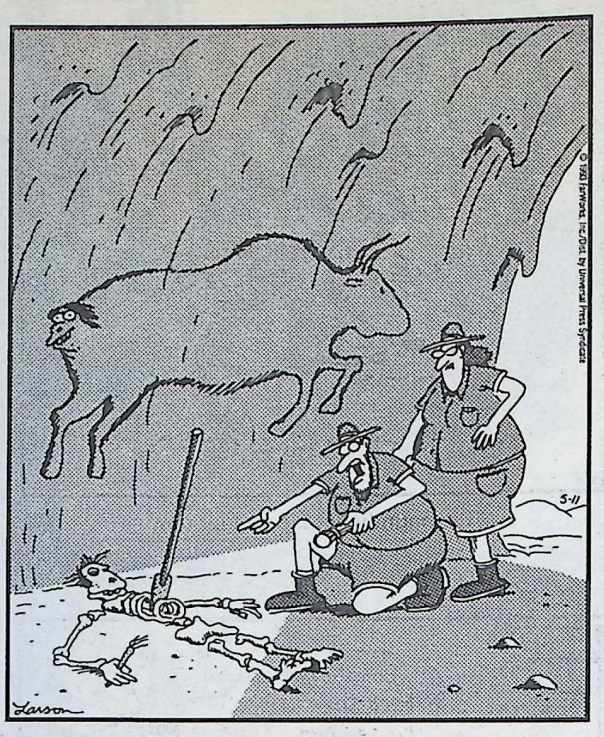
THE FAR SIDE

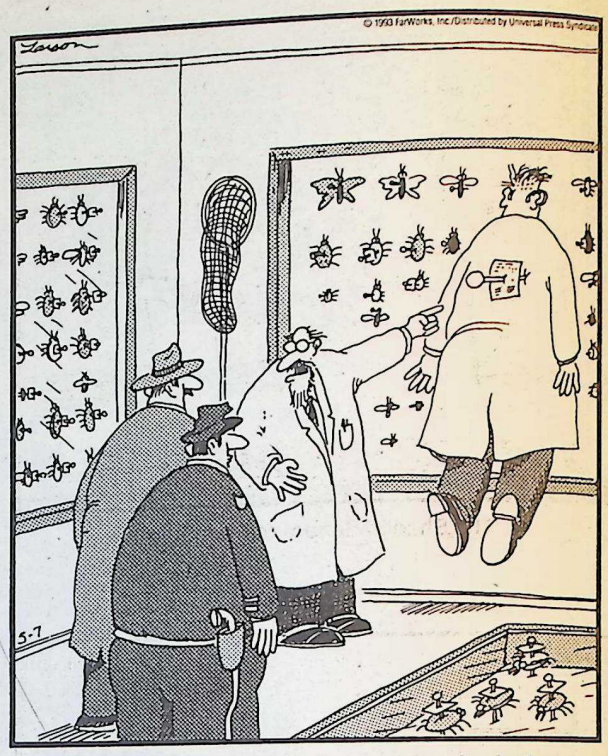
By Gary Larson



More facts of nature: All forest animals, to this very day, remember exactly where they were and what they were doing when they heard that Bambi's mother had been shot.



"Amazing! The mummified remains of a prehistoric cave-painter — still clutching his brush! ... Seems he made an enemy, though."



"Professor LaVonne had many enemies in the entomological world, detective, but if you examine that data label, you'll find exactly when and where he was — shall we say — 'collected.'"

The Leverett Co-op's 3rd Annual

Spring Fling

SAT. MAY 22nd AND SUN. MAY 23rd

Arrive Early (9 AM)

Hike or Bike the Gutter Road

Get that Co-op spirit (And maybe a tan)

Stay Late (7 PM AT LEAST)

Terrific Tag Sale!!

Craftspeople are welcome
•no food vendors please•
(bring your own table
expect a small consignment fee)

Incredible Entertainments!!

SAT: The Urban Family Band
SUN: John Sheldon & Blue Streak

Both Days: An open mic (Bring your instruments, voices, skits, etc.)
Waffleman the Clown
Tae Kwon Do demonstrations by Amherst Martial Arts

Any Day: Organic foods, fresh baked goods, herbs & spices, case discounts & much, much more

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for more information

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our meat and vegatarian barbeque will feature B.F.'s fine savory sauces (aged to perfection),
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AND
Pizza from our own ovens!!

PICNICS AND MOVEABLE FEASTS ARE ENCOURAGED

Your best alternative to an ordinary Spring weekend is in the scenic Leverett Hills

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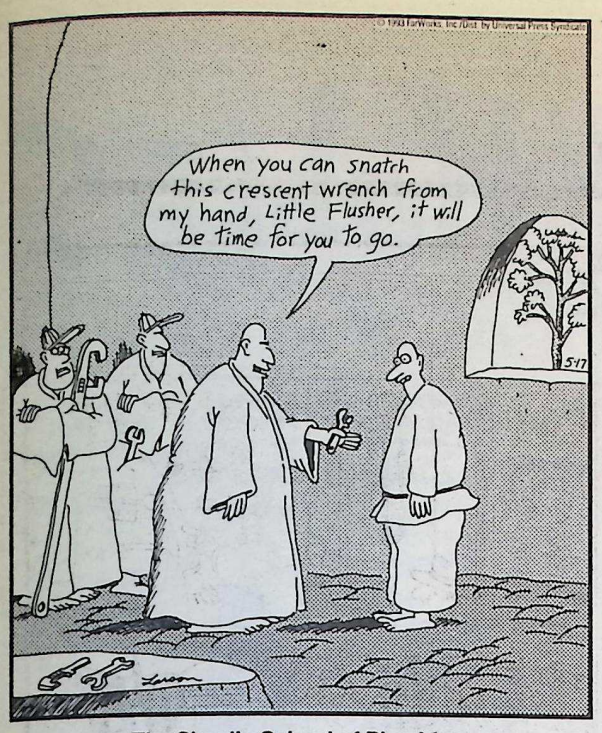
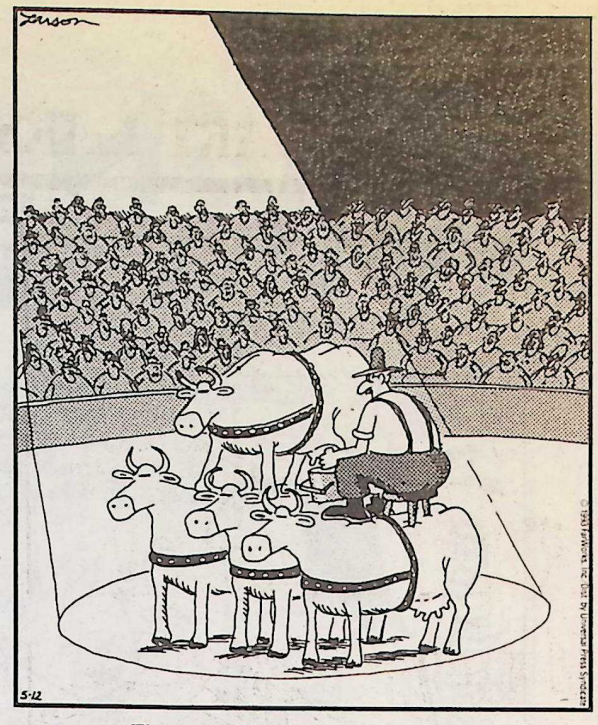
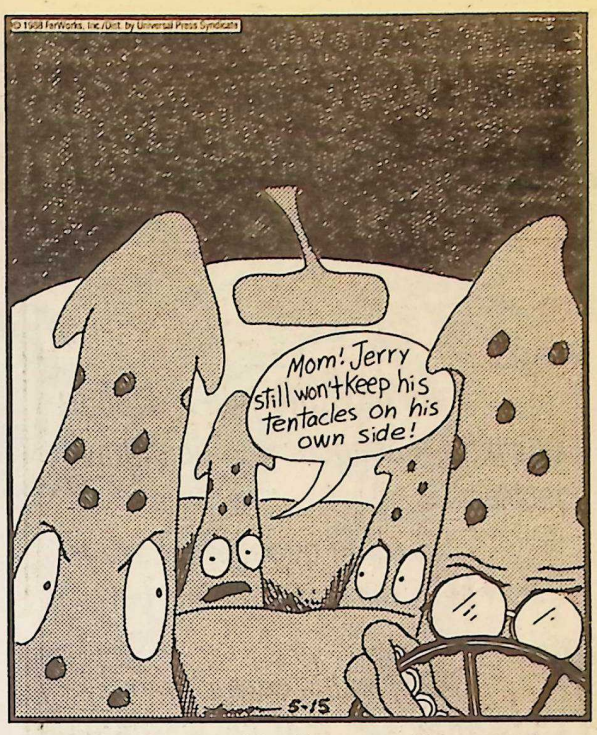


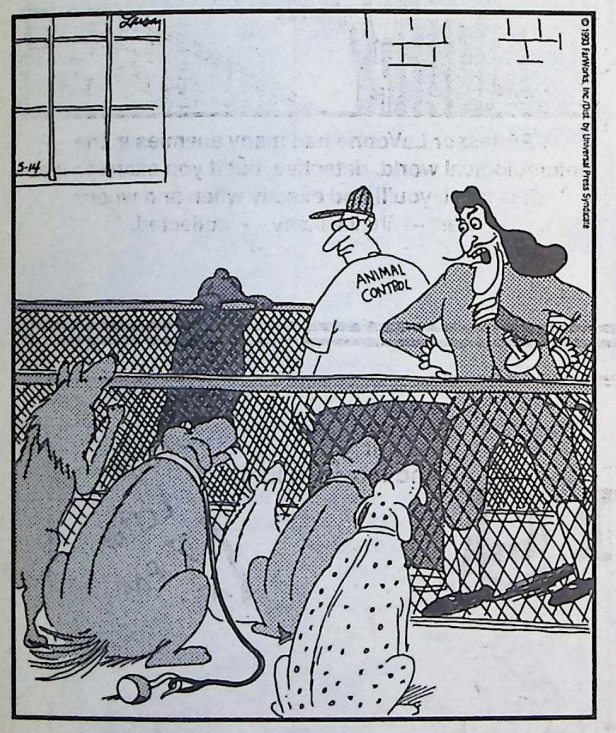
The Shaolin School of Plumbing



The magnificent Lippizaner cows

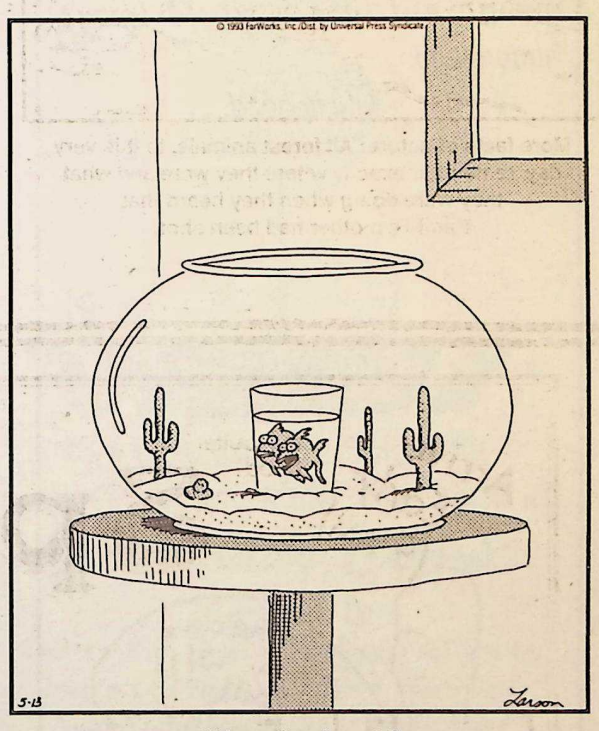


The squid family on vacation



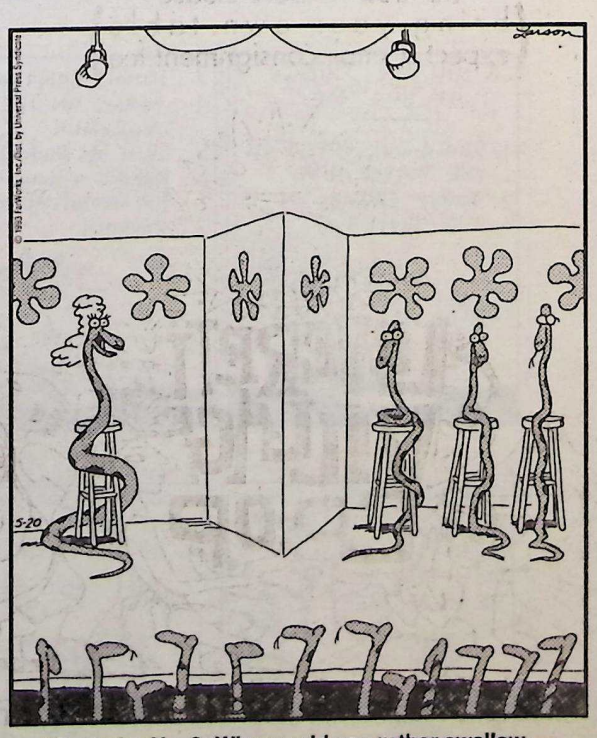
"*There* he is! ... Bruno! Bad dog!"

Octopus obedience school

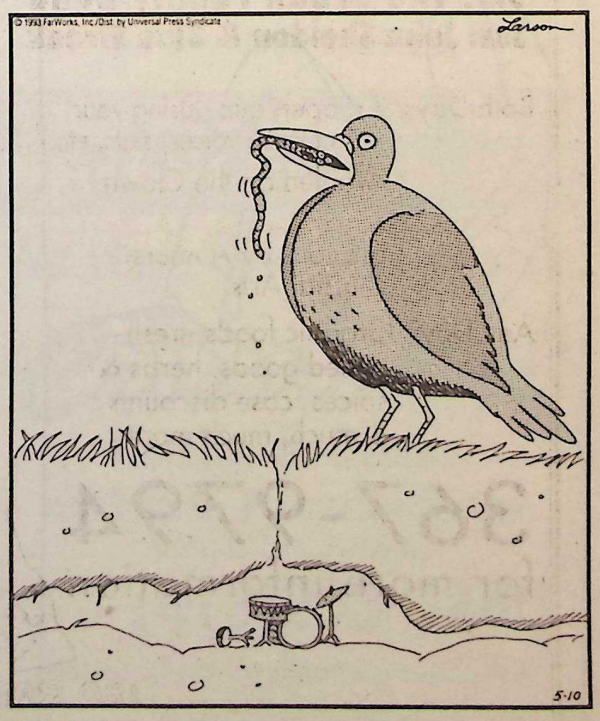


"I love the desert."

"Well, look who's excited to see you back from being declawed."



"Bachelor No. 3: Who would you rather swallow — Mickey Mouse, Speedy Gonzales, or Rocky the Flying Squirrel? ... And why?"



Leold at 15

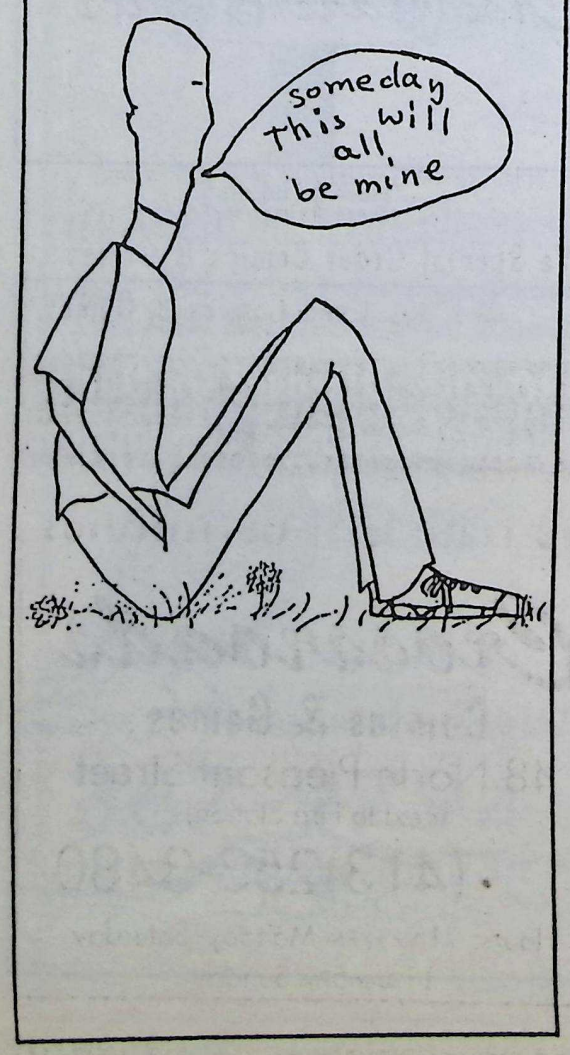
by Roger&Salem Salloom

I am going to join a support group for teenagers who don't have problems.

The big question I have is ...how soon will they throw me out?

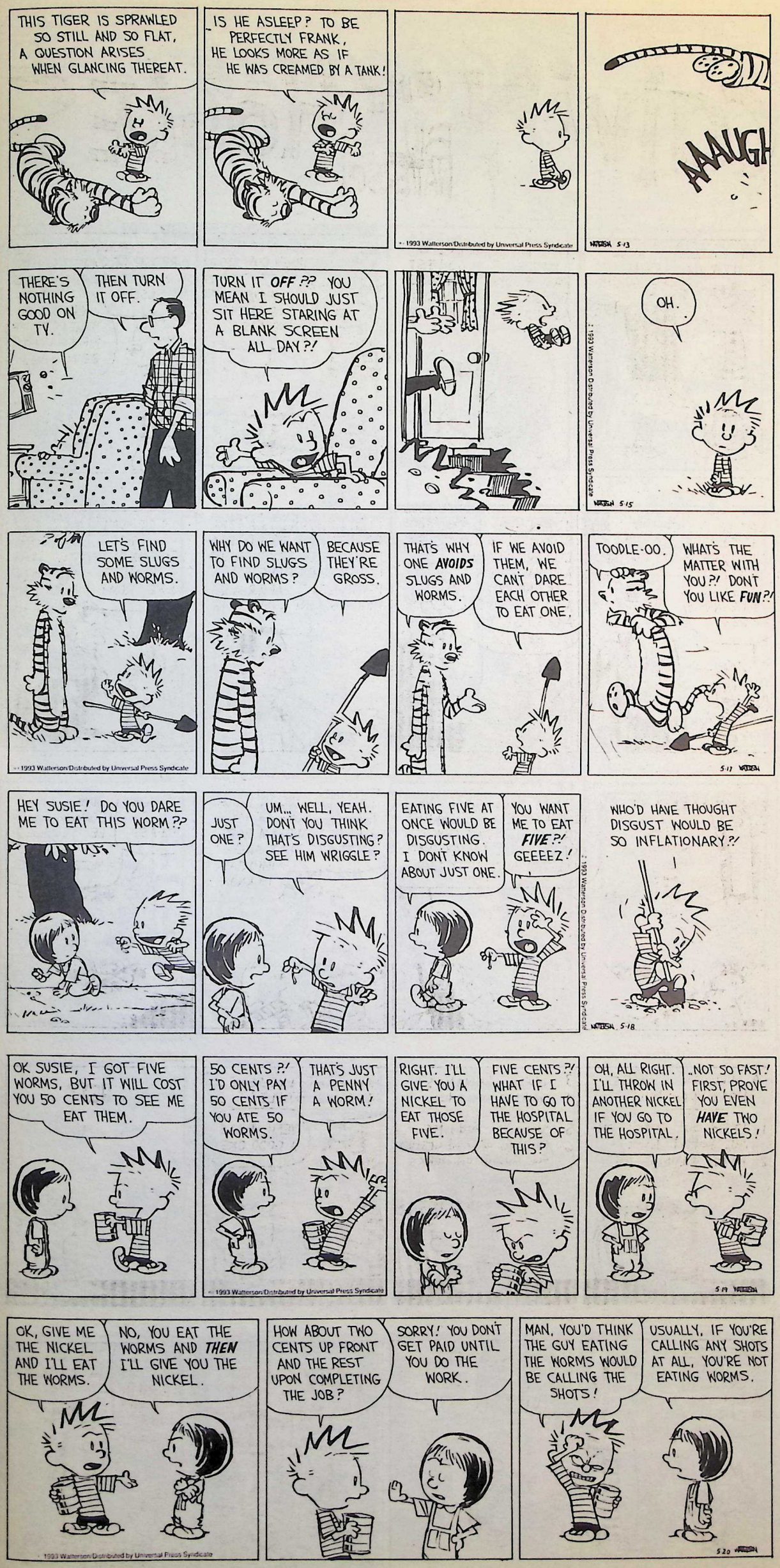
Ah ....who cares anyway. Once they see that I'm worth the trouble they'll feel guilty about letting me go out into a world I don't understand.

Life is good.....



Calvin and Hobbes

by Bill Watterson


THIS TIGER IS SPRAWLED SO STILL AND SO FLAT, A QUESTION ARISES WHEN GLANCING THEREAT.
IS HE ASLEEP? TO BE PERFECTLY FRANK, HE LOOKS MORE AS IF HE WAS CREAMED BY A TANK!
AAAUGH
THERE'S NOTHING GOOD ON TY.
THEN TURN IT OFF.
TURN IT OFF ?? YOU MEAN I SHOULD JUST SIT HERE STARING AT A BLANK SCREEN ALL DAY?!
OH.
LET'S FIND SOME SLUGS AND WORMS.
WHY DO WE WANT TO FIND SLUGS AND WORMS?
BECAUSE THEY'RE GROSS.
THAT'S WHY ONE AVOIDS SLUGS AND WORMS.
IF WE AVOID THEM, WE CAN'T DARE EACH OTHER TO EAT ONE.
TOODLE-OO.
WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH YOU?! DON'T YOU LIKE FUN?!
HEY SUSIE! DO YOU DARE ME TO EAT THIS WORM??
JUST ONE?
UM... WELL, YEAH. DON'T YOU THINK THAT'S DISGUSTING? SEE HIM WRIGGLE?
EATING FIVE AT ONCE WOULD BE DISGUSTING. I DON'T KNOW ABOUT JUST ONE.
YOU WANT ME TO EAT FIVE?! GEEEEZ!
WHO'D HAVE THOUGHT DISGUST WOULD BE SO INFLATIONARY?!
OK SUSIE, I GOT FIVE WORMS, BUT IT WILL COST YOU 50 CENTS TO SEE ME EAT THEM.
50 CENTS?! I'D ONLY PAY 50 CENTS IF YOU ATE 50 WORMS.
THAT'S JUST A PENNY A WORM!
RIGHT. I'LL GIVE YOU A NICKEL TO EAT THOSE FIVE.
FIVE CENTS?! WHAT IF I HAVE TO GO TO THE HOSPITAL BECAUSE OF THIS?
OH, ALL RIGHT. I'LL THROW IN ANOTHER NICKEL IF YOU GO TO THE HOSPITAL.
..NOT SO FAST! FIRST, PROVE YOU EVEN HAVE TWO NICKELS!
OK, GIVE ME THE NICKEL AND I'LL EAT THE WORMS.
NO, YOU EAT THE WORMS AND THEN I'LL GIVE YOU THE NICKEL.
HOW ABOUT TWO CENTS UP FRONT AND THE REST UPON COMPLETING THE JOB?
SORRY! YOU DON'T GET PAID UNTIL YOU DO THE WORK.
MAN, YOU'D THINK THE GUY EATING THE WORMS WOULD BE CALLING THE SHOTS!
USUALLY, IF YOU'RE CALLING ANY SHOTS AT ALL, YOU'RE NOT EATING WORMS.

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humor me

by Izzy Gesell

(Two years ago, I floated a modest proposal that would have enriched the quality of life in the Valley. Unfortunately, not much progress has been made, so it's time to try again.)

Something has been bugging me since just before last Labor Day. It's not a big thing, but like a mosquito bite on an unreachable area, it won't let me rest. As a full-time resident of the Pioneer Valley, I'm annoyed by those WELCOME BACK STUDENTS signs that pop into store windows around mid-August. Now, don't get me wrong. I don't blame storekeepers for welcoming the students back, although I do chuckle that the flip side of the welcome sign reads NO STUDENT CHECKS ACCEPTED AFTER MAY 1st. It's just that I too would like to be welcomed into my hometown shops in a coordinated, business association kind of way.

As a former Northampton business owner, I realize the students represent a good chunk of the yearly gross for many establishments. As a resident, I recognize the large part students play in maintaining the vibrancy of the area through fostering cultural events in the region, promoting diversity, and attracting a plethora of pizza and copy shops. No, I don't want to stop welcoming students.

I do want, however, acknowledgment of the worth of the "yearounder", a person who lives in the area 12 months a year. Toward that end, I am announcing the formation of a new political force here in the Valley of Group Process- The Yearounder Party.

The planks of our platform are as solid as the decks on our houses. We stand for the following:

-Free checking, with no minimum balance, for <u>everyone.</u>

-THANKS FOR NOT LEAVING SIGNS in stores from June through Labor Day.

-A yearly block party thrown by the Amherst and Northampton Chambers of Commerce to thank "yearounders".

-Two parking spots in front of Thorne's Market, permanently reserved for "yearounders". These would be allocated through a raffle held at the block party and would be in effect for one year.

-One day a year when shops would be open only to "yearounders". This event could be scheduled during intersession or some other slow period. A student, or other transient, would be forced to ask a resident for assistance. This would encourage new friendships and understandings as people who ordinarily never speak to each other would see there are more similarities than differences between them.

-Bus tours of residential neighborhoods, so students could see there are actually "yearounders" who do not live downtown or work at one of the five colleges.

-Since "yearounders" pay more than students to attend events on campus, students should pay more to do things in town. Surcharges on activities such as movies and concerts would go into a fund to pay for "yearounder" parking tickets.

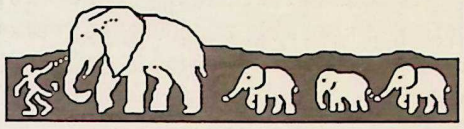
-Northampton is known nationwide as "the home of the hostile pedestrian." Student jaywalkers should be arrested and forced to go to jaywalking school. Repeat offenders would have their shoes impounded. People who jaywalk in groups will be made to stay indoors for one year.

Although this platform may seem to signal the beginning of a political campaign, I am not running for office. I'm just trying to make a slight adjustment in the way things are done around here. Of course, if anyone needs a campaign manager....

Doonesbury

BY G.B. TRUDEAU

KARAVAN IMPORTS



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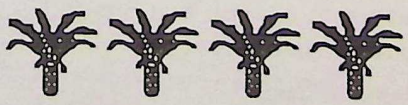

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